



Monday
April 27, 1998

Part III

**Department of
Agriculture**

Semiannual Regulatory Agenda

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

7 CFR Subtitle A, Chs. I-VII, IX-XII, XIV-XVIII, XXI, XXIV-XXIX

9 CFR Chs. I-IV

36 CFR Ch. II

41 CFR Ch. 4

Semiannual Regulatory Agenda, April 1998

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Semiannual regulatory agenda.

SUMMARY: This agenda provides summary descriptions of significant and

non-significant regulations being developed in agencies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in conformance with Executive Order 12866 "Regulatory Planning and Review." The agenda also describes regulations affecting small entities as required by section 602 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, Public Law 96-354. Further, this agenda identifies regulatory actions that are being reviewed in compliance with section 610(c) of the Regulatory Flexibility Act. We invite public comment on those actions.

USDA has attempted to list all regulations and regulatory reviews pending at the time of publication except for minor and routine or repetitive actions, but some may have been inadvertently missed. There is no

legal significance to the omission of an item from this listing. Also, the dates shown for the steps of each action are estimated and are not commitments to act on or by the date shown.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information on any specific entry shown in this agenda, please contact the person listed for that action. Requests for copies of the agenda should include a self-addressed, stamped envelope and be directed to: Regulatory Agenda, OBPA, Office of the Secretary, Room 118-E, Jamie Whitten Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, (202) 720-1272.

Dated: February 26, 1998.

Marvin J. Shapiro,
Chief, Legislative, Regulatory, and Automated Systems Division.

Agricultural Marketing Service—Proposed Rule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
1	National Organic Program	0581-AA40
2	National Laboratory Accreditation Program	0581-AB42
3	Processed Fruits and Vegetables, 1998 Fee Increase	0581-AB52
4	Milk in the New England and Other Marketing Areas; (Class I and II Prices)	0581-AB53

Agricultural Marketing Service—Final Rule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
5	Federal Meat Grading and Certification Services—1997 User Fees	0581-AB44
6	Federal Milk Order Consolidation and Reform (Section 610 Review)	0581-AB49

Agricultural Marketing Service—Long-Term Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
7	Revision of Regulations Governing the Inspection and Grading Services of Manufactured or Processed Dairy Products	0581-AA45
8	Kiwifruit Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Order	0581-AB46

Agricultural Marketing Service—Completed Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
9	Popcorn Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Order	0581-AB45
10	Revision of Part 46.46 Regulations Under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act; Trust Provisions	0581-AB47
11	Dairy Products; Grading and Inspection, Fee Increase	0581-AB50
12	Fees for Destination Market Inspections of Fresh Fruits, Vegetables and Other Products	0581-AB51

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Farm Service Agency—Proposed Rule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
13	Lender Buyback of Repurchased Guaranteed Loans	0560-AF21
14	Cooperative Marketing Associations	0560-AF33
15	Inapplicability to FSA's Farm Loan Programs of Redundant Instructions Regarding the Collection and Depositing of Program Payments	0560-AF34
16	Amendment to the Farm Reconstitution Regulations	0560-AF36

Farm Service Agency—Final Rule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
17	1998-Crop Marketing Quota and Price Support Level for Burley Tobacco	0560-AF18
18	1998-Crop Marketing Quotas and Price Support Levels for Eight Kinds of Tobacco	0560-AF20
19	Revision of FSA-Guaranteed Loan Regulations—Interest Subsidy for Guaranteed Borrowers	0560-AF35

Farm Service Agency—Long-Term Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
20	Program Ineligibility for Noncompliance With Boll Weevil Eradication Program	0560-AD57
21	Sugar and Crystalline Fructose Information and Recordkeeping Requirements	0560-AD88
22	Amendment to the Warehouse Regulations Regarding Auction Tobacco Warehouses	0560-AD92
23	Farmer Credit Program Account Servicing Policies for Section 1816 and Other Related Sections for the "1990 FACT Act"	0560-AE02
24	Implement Section 1818 (Borrower Training) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (FACT Act)	0560-AE04
25	Guaranteed Loan Programs; Monitoring Liquid Accounts	0560-AE05
26	Implementation of Certified Lender Program	0560-AE07
27	Insured and Guaranteed Operating and Farm Ownership Loan and Related Instructions To Implement Sections 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 19 of the Agricultural Credit Improvement Act of 1992	0560-AE09
28	Loans to Indian Tribes and Tribal Corporations	0560-AE10
29	Section 14 of the Agricultural Credit Improvement Act of 1992, (Graduation) and Sections 1819 (Loan Assessment) and 1821 (Market Placement) of the "FACT Act"	0560-AE11
30	The Agricultural Credit Improvement Act of 1992	0560-AE13
31	Implement Sections 11 and 13 of the Agriculture Credit Improvement Act of 1992 (Application Processing Time-frame)	0560-AE14
32	Acquisition and Management of Real and Chattel Property	0560-AE15
33	Small Farmer Outreach Training and Technical Assistance Program	0560-AE17
34	Disaster Assistance	0560-AE22
35	Revisions to the Direct Farm Ownership Loan Regulation (1943-A) Outreach Program for Members of Socially Disadvantaged Groups	0560-AE23
36	Socially Disadvantaged Outreach Program	0560-AE24
37	Part 1946 Mediation; Subpart A Agricultural Loan Mediation Program	0560-AE26
38	Amendment to Conservation Program Appeal Regulations Regarding Jurisdiction	0560-AE30
39	Selection and Functions of Farm Service Agency State and County Committees	0560-AE33
40	Permit FSA To Sell or Assign Farm Loan Mortgages and Notes	0560-AE35
41	Implementation Procedures for Highly Erodible Land and Wetlands Conservation Provisions of the Food Security Act	0560-AE38
42	Amendments to the Farmer Account Servicing Policies	0560-AE42
43	Amendments to the Standards for Approval of Warehouse for Commodity Credit Corporation Storage Contracts	0560-AE50
44	Deletion of FSA Regulations Regarding Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program	0560-AE54
45	Amendment to the Conservation Reserve Program Regarding Early Contract Terminations	0560-AE56
46	Implementation of Five-Year Direct Line of Credit Program	0560-AE58
47	Amendments to the Regulations for Cotton Warehouses Under the United States Warehouse Act—Electronic Block Warehouse Receipts, Insurance Requirements, and Other Provisions	0560-AE60
48	Post-Bankruptcy Loan Servicing Notification	0560-AE62

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Farm Service Agency—Long-Term Actions (Continued)

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
49	Consolidate FSA Farm Credit Programs Regulations—Miscellaneous Program Requirements	0560-AE64
50	Consolidate FSA Farm Credit Programs Direct Loan Servicing Regulations—Management and Disposal of Acquired Property	0560-AE65
51	Consolidate FSA Farm Credit Program Direct Loan Servicing Regulations—Delinquent Account Restructuring and Liquidation	0560-AE66
52	Consolidate FSA Farm Credit Programs Direct Loan Servicing Regulations—Management Advice, Tax Servicing, Collection, and Security Servicing	0560-AE67
53	Eliminate Internal Agency Provisions From FSA Farm Credit Programs Regulations—Miscellaneous Program Requirements	0560-AE68
54	Eliminate Internal Administrative Provisions From FSA Farm Credit Program Regulations—Management and Disposal of Acquired Property	0560-AE69
55	Eliminate Internal Administrative Provisions From FSA Farm Credit Program Direct Loan Regulations—Delinquent Account Servicing and Liquidation	0560-AE70
56	Eliminate Internal Administrative Provisions From FSA Farm Credit Programs Direct Loan Servicing Regulations	0560-AE71
57	Elimination of Administrative Provisions From FSA Farm Credit Program Direct Loanmaking Regulations	0560-AE73
58	Consolidation of FSA Farm Credit Programs Direct Loanmaking Regulations	0560-AE74
59	Elimination of Administrative Provisions From FSA Farm Credit Programs Guaranteed Loanmaking Regulations	0560-AE75
60	Consolidation of FSA Farm Credit Programs Guaranteed Loanmaking Regulations	0560-AE76
61	Elimination of Administrative Provisions From FSA Regulations Pertaining to Farm Credit Programs Loan Rates, Funding, and Loan Authorities	0560-AE77
62	Consolidation of FSA Farm Credit Programs Regulations Pertaining to Loan Rates, Funding, and Loan Authorities	0560-AE78
63	Elimination of Administrative Provisions From FSA Farm Credit Programs Environmental Regulations	0560-AE79
64	Consolidation of Farm Service Agency Environmental Programs Regulations	0560-AE80
65	Suspension of the Emergency Livestock Assistance Regulations for Crop Years 1996 to 2002	0560-AE86
66	Revision to the Direct Loanmaking Regulations	0560-AE87
67	Revision of the Inventory Property Management Regulations	0560-AE88
68	Revisions to the Delinquent Account Servicing Regulations	0560-AE89
69	Direct Line of Credit Program	0560-AE90
70	Revision of Regulations Pertaining to Indian Tribes and Tribal Corporations	0560-AE91
71	Subordination of Direct Loan Basic Security to Secure a Guaranteed Loan	0560-AE92
72	Amendments to the Tobacco Marketing Quota Regulations	0560-AE96
73	Disaster Set-Aside Program	0560-AE98
74	Boll Weevil Eradication Loan Program	0560-AE99
75	Amendments To Update the Tobacco Program Regulations	0560-AF05
76	Amendments To Update the Peanut Program Regulations	0560-AF06
77	Amendments To Update Farm Program Payment Limitation and Disaster Regulations Under the National Performance Review	0560-AF10
78	Amendment to the Cotton Warehouse Regulations Regarding the Definition of “Unnecessary Delay”	0560-AF13
79	Amendments to the Debt Settlement Policies and Procedures to Conform to the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996	0560-AF22
80	Amendments to the Forage Provisions of the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program	0560-AF23
81	Flood Risk Reduction Program	0560-AF24
82	Amendments to the Production Flexibility Contract for Wheat, Feed Grains, Rice, and Upland Cotton	0560-AF25
83	Refund of Marketing Quota Penalties and Tobacco Auction Warehouse Records and Reports	0560-AF26
84	Refund of Marketing Quota Penalties and Other Peanut Program Provisions	0560-AF27
85	Contracting Additional Peanuts by Type and Segregation	0560-AF28
86	American Indian Livestock Feed Program	0560-AF29
87	Sugar Program Information Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements	0560-AF31
88	Upland Cotton User Marketing Certificate Program; Revision of Regulations	0560-AF32

Farm Service Agency—Completed Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
89	Farmer Programs Guaranteed Interest Assistance Program	0560-AE01
90	Decision to Liquidate	0560-AE19
91	Collection of Shared Appreciation Agreements	0560-AE61

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Farm Service Agency—Completed Actions (Continued)

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
92	1997-Crop Peanuts National Poundage Quota, National Average Loan Rates, and Minimum CCC Export-Edible Sales Price for Additional Peanuts	0560-AF01
93	Amendments to the Regulations for Procurement of Processed Agricultural Commodities for Donation To Comply With the Maritime Security Act of 1996	0560-AF09
94	Special Combinations of Flue-Cured Tobacco Allotments and Quotas	0560-AF14
95	Amendment to the Farm Reconstitution Regulations	0560-AF16
96	Tree Assistance Program for 1997	0560-AF17
97	Dairy Indemnity Payment Program	0560-AF30

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service—Proposed Rule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
98	Animal Welfare—Standards for Marine Mammals	0579-AA59
99	User Fees, Veterinary Diagnostics	0579-AA70
100	Animal Welfare—Standards for Animal Auctions	0579-AA76
101	Plant Pest Regulations; Update of Current Provisions	0579-AA80
102	Importation of Logs, Lumber, and Other Unmanufactured Wood Articles	0579-AA82
103	Veterinary Services Multi-Year User Fees	0579-AA87
104	Importation of Grapefruit, Lemons, and Oranges from Argentina	0579-AA92

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service—Final Rule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
105	Addition of Cervidae to the Regulations Concerning Tuberculosis in Livestock	0579-AA53
106	Phytosanitary Export Certification; Accreditation of Nongovernment Facilities	0579-AA75
107	Karnal Bunt	0579-AA83

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service—Long-Term Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
108	Importation of Fruits and Vegetables	0579-AA58
109	Importation of Certain Embryos and Animal Semen	0579-AA63
110	HSTaIC Repair and Maintenance Fees	0579-AA69
111	Karnal Bunt Status of the Mexicali Valley of Mexico	0579-AA88
112	Interstate Movement of Sheep and Goats From States That Do Not Quarantine Scrapie-Infected and Source Flocks	0579-AA90
113	Importation of Pork From Yucatan, Mexico	0579-AA91
114	Importation of Fuji Apples From the Republic of Korea	0579-AA93

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service—Completed Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
115	Importation of Animals and Animal Products	0579-AA71
116	Humane Treatment of Dogs and Cats; Tethering and Temperature Requirements	0579-AA74
117	Humane Treatment of Dogs and Cats; Wire Flooring	0579-AA78
118	Humane Treatment of Dogs and Cats; Licensing and Consignment Requirements	0579-AA79
119	Interstate Movements of Imported Plants and Plant Parts	0579-AA85

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Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service—Completed Actions (Continued)

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
120	Garbage; Inspection at Airports	0579-AA86
121	Animal Welfare; Regulations of Pocket Pets	0579-AA89

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service—Proposed Rule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
122	Agricultural Telecommunications Program Administrative Provisions	0524-AA12
123	Hispanic Education Partnership Grants Program; Administrative Provisions	0524-AA17
124	Community Food Projects Administrative Provisions	0524-AA19
125	Small Business Innovation Research Program Administrative Provisions	0524-AA20
126	Biotechnology Risk Assessment Research Grants Program Administrative Provisions	0524-AA21

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service—Long-Term Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
127	Higher Education Multicultural Scholars Program; Administrative Provisions	0524-AA09

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service—Completed Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
128	Higher Education Challenge Grants Program; Administrative Provisions	0524-AA02
129	1890 Institution Capacity Building Grants Program; Administrative Provisions	0524-AA03

Rural Housing Service—Proposed Rule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
130	Civil Rights Compliance Requirements—1901-E to 1940-D	0575-AA83
131	Direct Single-Family Housing Loans and Grants	0575-AC11
132	Multi-Family Housing Reinvention	0575-AC13
133	Community Facility Loans	0575-AC16

Rural Housing Service—Final Rule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
134	Denying Credit to Applicants Delinquent on Any Federal Debt	0575-AA66
135	Reengineering and Reinvention of the Direct Section 502 and 504 Single Family Housing Program	0575-AB99
136	Community Facility Grants	0575-AC10
137	Servicing Community Programs Loans and Grants	0575-AC12
138	Section 538 Guarantee Rural Rental Housing Program	0575-AC14
139	Community Programs Guaranteed Loans	0575-AC17

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Rural Housing Service—Long-Term Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
140	Environmental Program Streamline Environmental Process	0575-AB98
141	National Flood Insurance Regulations	0575-AC07

Rural Housing Service—Completed Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
142	Community Programs Guaranteed Loans	0575-AB48
143	Rural Rental and Rural Cooperative Housing Loan Policies, Procedures, and Authorizations	0575-AB93
144	Provide Information Regarding Lease Write-Off and Annual Lease Statements	0575-AC01
145	Accessibility of Existing Multi-Family Housing Complexes	0575-AC08
146	Section 515 Reform Regulations	0575-AC15

Federal Crop Insurance Corporation—Proposed Rule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
147	General Administrative Regulations; High Risk Land Regulations	0563-AA98
148	General Administrative Regulations; Subpart D; Application for Crop Insurance	0563-AB00
149	Common Crop Insurance Regulations; Cotton and ELS Cotton Crop Insurance Provisions	0563-AB62
150	Common Crop Insurance Regulations; Small Grains Crop Insurance Provisions and Wheat Winter Coverage Endorsement	0563-AB63
151	Common Crop Insurance Regulations; Coarse Grains Crop Insurance Provisions	0563-AB64
152	General Administrative Regulations; Nonstandard Underwriting Classification System	0563-AB66

Federal Crop Insurance Corporation—Final Rule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
153	Common Crop Insurance Regulations; Tobacco (Guaranteed Plan) Crop Insurance Provisions	0563-AA84
154	Common Crop Insurance Regulations; Peanut Crop Insurance Provisions	0563-AA85
155	Group Risk Plan Crop Insurance Provisions; Part 407	0563-AB06
156	General Administrative Regulations; Subpart S; Regulations for Insurance Coverage by Written Agreement	0563-AB07
157	General Administrative Regulations; Subpart V; Submission of Policies and Provisions of Policies and Rates of Premium	0563-AB15
158	General Administrative Regulations; Subpart J; Appeal Procedure Regulations	0563-AB17
159	General Administrative Regulations; Subpart N; Disaster Assistance Act of 1988	0563-AB20
160	Tobacco, Quota Plan Crop Insurance Regulations	0563-AB47
161	Popcorn Corn Insurance Regulations	0563-AB48
162	Federal Crop Insurance on Highly Erodible Land and Wetlands— Part 400	0563-AB59
163	Federal Crop Insurance on Highly Erodible Land and Wetlands— Part 401	0563-AB60
164	Dairy Options Pilot Program	0563-AB61
165	Nursery Crop Insurance Regulations; Common Crop Insurance Regulations; and Nursery Crop Insurance Provisions	0563-AB65

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Federal Crop Insurance Corporation—Long-Term Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
166	Common Crop Insurance Regulations; Rice, Fig, Almond, Raisin, Forage Production, Hybrid Sorghum Seed, Pear, Apple, Canning and Processing Sweet Corn, Dollar Plan Fresh Market Tomato	0563-AB03

Federal Crop Insurance Corporation—Completed Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
167	Common Crop Insurance Regulations; Northern Potato Crop Insurance Provisions	0563-AA89
168	Common Crop Insurance Regulations; Canning and Processing Tomato Crop Insurance Provisions	0563-AA94
169	1996 Crop Year Coffee Crop Insurance Program for Puerto Rico	0563-AB33
170	1996 Crop Year Fruit Trees (Avocado, Oranges, Mango, Citron, Lemon) Insurance Program for Puerto Rico	0563-AB36
171	Common Crop Insurance Regulations; Sunflower Seed Crop Insurance Provisions	0563-AB42

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration—Proposed Rule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
172	Grain Inspection General Regulations	0580-AA53
173	Official/Unofficial Weighing Services	0580-AA55
174	Review Inspection Requirements	0580-AA58

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration—Final Rule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
175	General Regulations and Standards for Certain Agricultural Commodities	0580-AA54
176	Tolerances for Dividers	0580-AA57

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration—Long-Term Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
177	Poultry Grower Contracts, Scales, Weighing	0580-AA51

Food and Nutrition Service—Proposed Rule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
178	Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): Food Delivery Systems Integrity	0584-AA80
179	Food Distribution Programs—Implementation of 1990 Farm Bill	0584-AB28
180	Provisions of Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988, Amendments of 1990, and Implementation of the Disqualified Recipient Subsystem	0584-AB51
181	Elimination of Whole Cow's Milk from the Infant Meal Pattern	0584-AB81
182	Food Stamp Program: Food Stamp Recipient Claim Establishment and Collection Standards	0584-AB88
183	Food Stamp Program: Revisions to the Retail Food Store Definition and Program Authorization Guidance	0584-AB90
184	Food Stamp Program: Retailer Application Processing	0584-AC05
185	Summer Food Service Program: Program Meal Service During the School Year	0584-AC06
186	Consolidation of National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Into Comprehensive School Meal Program	0584-AC10

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Food and Nutrition Service—Proposed Rule Stage (Continued)

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
187	FSP: Collection of Delinquent Retailer Debts: Administrative Offset	0584-AC11
188	Release of Free and Reduced Price School Meal Eligibility Information	0584-AC21
189	Food Stamp Program: Welfare Reform and Regulatory Review of Program Management	0584-AC22
190	Improving Management and Program Integrity in the Child and Adult Care Food Program	0584-AC24
191	Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced Price Meals and Free Milk in Schools: Provision 2 and Provision 3	0584-AC25
192	Food Stamp Program Regulatory Review: Certification of Eligible Households	0584-AC28
193	Part 240, Cash In Lieu of Donated Foods and Part 250, Food Distribution Regulations	0584-AC31
194	Food Stamp Program Regulatory Review: FSP Standards for Approval and Operation of Food Stamp Electronic Benefit Transfer Systems	0584-AC37
195	National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program: Additional Menu Planning Alternatives	0584-AC38
196	FSP: Personal Responsibility Provisions of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996	0584-AC39
197	FSP: Nondiscretionary Provisions of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996	0584-AC41
198	Food Stamp Program: Simplified Food Stamp Program Provisions of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996	0584-AC43
199	Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Provisions of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996	0584-AC44
200	Food Stamp Program: Work Provisions of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996	0584-AC45
201	Food Stamp Program: Retailer Integrity, Fraud Reduction and Penalties	0584-AC46
202	Regulatory Reform: Provisions Relating to Firms Participating in the Food Stamp Program	0584-AC48
203	Food Distribution Program: Regulatory Implementation of Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PL 104-193, 110 Stat 2105)	0584-AC49
204	Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC): Disqualification of WIC Vendors Who Are Disqualified From the Food Stamp Program	0584-AC50
205	WIC: Evaluation of WIC Program Infant Formula Rebate Contracts	0584-AC55
206	Food Distributions Programs: Commodity Acceptability Report	0584-AC56
207	WIC: Food and Nutrition Services and Administration (NSA) Funding Formula Rule	0584-AC64
208	Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations: Disqualification Penalties for Intentional Program Violations	0584-AC65

Food and Nutrition Service—Final Rule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
209	Child and Adult Care Food Program: Authority To Collect Overclaims	0584-AB19
210	Permanent Agreements/Direct Certification in National School Lunch, School Breakfast, and Special Milk Programs	0584-AB35
211	Food Stamp Program: 1995 Quality Control Technical Amendments	0584-AB38
212	Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations—Oklahoma Waiver Authority	0584-AB56
213	Food Stamp Program: Anticipating Income and Reporting Changes	0584-AB57
214	Food Stamp Program: Payment of Certain Administrative Costs of State Agencies	0584-AB66
215	Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations: Definition of Indian Tribal Household	0584-AB67
216	Food Stamp Program: Quality Control Provisions of the Mickey Leland Childhood Hunger Relief Act	0584-AB75
217	Implementation of Legislative Reforms in the Summer Food Service Program	0584-AC23
218	Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for WIC: Implementation of WIC-Related Provisions of PL 104-193, Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996	0584-AC51
219	Implementation of Legislative Changes in the Child and Adult Care Food Program	0584-AC52
220	Food Stamp Provisions of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997	0584-AC63

Food and Nutrition Service—Long-Term Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
221	Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): Miscellaneous Provisions	0584-AB10

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Food and Nutrition Service—Long-Term Actions (Continued)

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
222	Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): Food Cost Containment Requirements	0584-AB11
223	Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): Infant Formula Procurement Act of 1992	0584-AB52
224	School Nutrition Programs: Technical and Nondiscretionary Amendments	0584-AC01
225	Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): Implementation of WIC Mandates of the Healthy Meals for Healthy Americans Act of 1994	0584-AC02
226	Amendment To Remove Formulated Grain—Fruit Product Section	0584-AC09
227	Modification of the "Vegetable Protein Products" Portion of Appendix A of 7 CFR Parts 210, 225, and 226	0584-AC18
228	Child and Adult Care Food Program: Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act Amendments and Healthy Meals for Healthy Americans Act of 1994	0584-AC20
229	NSLP/SBP/SMP/FDP/CACFP/SFSP/WIC: Nonprocurement Debarment	0584-AC26
230	WIC: Minor WIC Food Package Adjustments and Corrections	0584-AC29
231	WIC: Bloodwork Requirements	0584-AC30
232	Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): Accommodation of Cultural Food Preferences in the WIC Program	0584-AC32
233	Nutrition Education and Training Program Requirements	0584-AC34
234	FSP: State Flexibility and Certification Provisions of Public Law 104-193	0584-AC40
235	WIC: Notice Announcing USDA's Decision To Retain the 6-Gram Sugar Limit for WIC Cereals	0584-AC59
236	Food Stamp Program: Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Benefit Adjustments	0584-AC61
237	Definition of Federal Means-Tested Public Benefit	0584-AC62

Food and Nutrition Service—Completed Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
238	Food Stamp Program: Emergency Assistance for Victims of Disasters	0584-AA85
239	Food Distribution Programs—Paperwork Reduction	0584-AB27
240	Commodity Supplemental Food Program: Elderly-Only Sites, Administrative Funding, Referrals to Health and Social Services, Caseload Allocation Process, Priority System, and Miscellaneous	0584-AB37
241	Child and Adult Care Food Program: Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 1989 and Other Amendments	0584-AC07
242	Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): Infant Formula Cost Containment Requirements	0584-AC33
243	Revision of the Regulations Governing the Determination of Eligibility for Free and Reduced Price Meals and Free Milk in Schools	0584-AC36
244	Improved Targeting of Day Care Home Reimbursements in the Child and Adult Care Food Program	0584-AC42
245	Food Stamp Program: Maximum Allotments for the 48 States and DC	0584-AC57
246	Food Stamp Program: Maximum Allotments for Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, and the Virgin Islands	0584-AC58
247	Commodity Supplemental Food Program—Caseload Assignment	0584-AC60

Food Safety and Inspection Service—Prerule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
248	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems for Egg Products	0583-AC30
249	Elimination of Accredited Laboratory Program for Food Chemistry and Residue Chemistry	0583-AC48
250	Salmonella Enteritis in Shell Eggs and Egg Products	0583-AC52

Food Safety and Inspection Service—Proposed Rule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
251	Elimination of Prior Approval Requirements for Egg Product Plant Drawings, Specifications, and Equipment	0583-AC06

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Food Safety and Inspection Service—Proposed Rule Stage (Continued)

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
252	Grant and Inauguration of Inspection	0583-AC07
253	Performance Standards for the Production of Certain Meat and Poultry Products With Established Standards of Identity	0583-AC18
254	Performance Standards for the Thermal Processing of Meat and Poultry Products	0583-AC19
255	Performance Standards for the Handling, Chilling, and Freezing of Poultry	0583-AC21
256	Prevention of Physical or Chemical Contamination of Meat and Poultry Products or Product Ingredients	0583-AC22
257	Retained Water in Raw Meat and Poultry Products; Poultry Chilling Performance Standards	0583-AC26
258	Performance Standard for Carcasses Cut into Primal Parts Within an Establishment	0583-AC27
259	Elimination of Requirements for Partial Quality Control Programs	0583-AC35
260	Elimination of Prior Approval Requirements for Proprietary Substances and Nonfood Compounds	0583-AC37
261	Labeling Standards for Ovine Carcasses, Parts of Carcasses Meat and Meat Food Products	0583-AC41
262	Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Inspection of Livestock and Poultry	0583-AC43
263	Requirements for Disposition and Disposal of Inspected Raw Meat and Poultry Products	0583-AC44
264	Performance Standards for Shelf-Stable, Ready-To-Eat Products	0583-AC45
265	Performance Standards for Perishable, Ready-to-Eat Products	0583-AC46
266	Performance Standards for Bacon	0583-AC49
267	Irradiation of Meat and Meat Products	0583-AC50
268	Meat Produced by Advanced Meat/Bone Separation Machinery and Meat Recovery Systems	0583-AC51

Food Safety and Inspection Service—Final Rule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
269	Requirements for Foreign Country Import Certification and Live Animal Importation	0583-AA47
270	Substances Approved for Use in the Preparation of Meat Food and Poultry Products	0583-AB02
271	Food Standards: Requirements for Processed Meat and Poultry Products Named by Use of an Expressed Nutrient Content Claim and a Standardized Term	0583-AB51
272	Nutrition Labeling: Health Claims on Meat and Poultry Products	0583-AB64
273	Performance Standards for Certain Meat Products and Poultry Products	0583-AB94
274	Continuous Chilling of Split Poultry Portions	0583-AB95
275	Beef or Pork With Barbecue Sauce; Revision of Standards	0583-AC09
276	Nutrition Labeling; Reference Daily Intakes	0583-AC15
277	Addition of Mexico to List of Countries Eligible To Export Poultry Products to the United States	0583-AC33
278	Rules of Practice	0583-AC34
279	Performance Standards for the Production of Certain Meat and Poultry Products	0583-AC38
280	Sanitation Requirements for Official Meat and Poultry Establishments	0583-AC39
281	Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems Sampling Collection—Technical Amendment and Corrections	0583-AC40

Food Safety and Inspection Service—Long-Term Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
282	Nutrition Labeling of Ground Beef and Hamburger	0583-AB74
283	Nutrition Labeling; New Product Categories and Reference Amounts	0583-AB81
284	Use of Soy Protein Concentrate and Food Starch—Modified as Binders in Cured Pork Products	0583-AB82
285	Refrigeration and Labeling Requirements for Shell Eggs	0583-AC04
286	Transportation and Storage Requirements for Potentially Hazardous Foods	0583-AC05
287	Carrageenan, Locust Bean Gum, and Xanthan Gum Blend used as a Binder in Certain Cured Pork Products	0583-AC16

USDA

Food Safety and Inspection Service—Completed Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
288	Use of Trisodium Phosphate (TSP) on Raw, Unchilled Poultry Carcasses	0583-AB80
289	Meat and Poultry Standards of Identity and Composition	0583-AC01
290	Use of Sorbitol in Cooked Roast Beef Products	0583-AC02
291	Procedural Due Process for Official Establishments Rules of Practice	0583-AC12
292	Use of Two Kinds of Poultry Without Label Change	0583-AC17
293	Performance Standards for the Irradiation of Poultry To Control Foodborne Pathogens	0583-AC20
294	Labeling of Egg Products	0583-AC23
295	Use of Modified Food Starch in Ham With Natural Juices	0583-AC29
296	Generic E. Coli Testing for Sheep, Goats, Ducks, Geese, and Guineas	0583-AC32
297	Use of Two Kinds of Poultry Without Label Change	0583-AC42
298	Food Labeling: Nutrient Content Claims, Definition of Term: Healthy	0583-AC47

Foreign Agricultural Service—Prerule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
299	Dairy Tariff-Rate Import Quota Licensing	0551-AA53

Foreign Agricultural Service—Proposed Rule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
300	Export Sales Reporting Requirement	0551-AA51

Foreign Agricultural Service—Final Rule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
301	CCC Supplier Credit Guarantee Program	0551-AA30
302	Sugar Import Licensing	0551-AA39
303	Proposed Regulation Governing Implementation of the Market Access Program	0551-AA52

Foreign Agricultural Service—Long-Term Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
304	Proposed Regulations Governing Implementation of the Cooperator Market Development Program Overseas	0551-AA26
305	Dairy Tariff Rate Import Quota Licensing	0551-AA27
306	Facility Guarantee Program	0551-AA35
307	Reform of Export Bonus Program	0551-AA41

Foreign Agricultural Service—Completed Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
308	Regulation Governing the Financing of Commercial Sales of Agricultural Commodities (PL 480, Title I)	0551-AA42

USDA

Forest Service—Proposed Rule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
309	Small Tracts Act Regulations	0596-AA79
310	National Forest System Land and Resource Management Planning	0596-AB20
311	Species Surplus to Domestic Manufacturing Needs	0596-AB27
312	National Forest System Land and Resource Management Planning Forest Service Manual Chapter 1920	0596-AB31
313	Collection of Reimbursable Costs for Processing Special-Use Applications and Administration of Special-Use Authorizations	0596-AB36
314	Appeal of Decisions Relating to Occupancy and Use of National Forest System Lands	0596-AB45
315	Sale and Disposal of National Forest System Timber; Extension of Timber Sale Contracts To Permit Urgent Removal of Other Timber	0596-AB48
316	Disposal of National Forest Timber: Timber Sale Contract Revisions	0596-AB52
317	National Environmental Policy Act; Revised Policy and Procedures; Categorical Exclusions	0596-AB54
318	Appeal of Decisions Relating to Occupancy and Use of National Forest System Lands; Mediation of Grazing Permit Disputes	0596-AB59
319	Law Enforcement Support Activities	0596-AB61
320	Administrative, Cooperative Funds Agreements	0596-AB63
321	Administration of the Forest Development Transportation System	0596-AB67
322	Noncompetitive Sale of Timber	0596-AB70

Forest Service—Final Rule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
323	Hydropower Applications	0596-AA47
324	Indian Allotments on National Forest System Lands	0596-AA52
325	Disposal of National Forest Timber; Cancellation of Timber Sale Contracts	0596-AB21
326	State and Private Forestry Assistance Stewardship Incentive Program	0596-AB32
327	Special-Use Applications and Administration of Special-Use Authorizations	0596-AB35
328	Sale and Disposal of National Forest Timber; Market-Related Contract Term Additions	0596-AB41
329	Preference for Visitor Service; Alaska National Forest Conservation System Units	0596-AB57
330	Small Business Timber Sale Set-Aside Program; Appeal Procedure on Recomputation of Shares	0596-AB62
331	Categorical Exclusion for Certain Ski Area Permit Actions	0596-AB65
332	Administration of the Forest Development Transportation System: Temporary Suspension of Road Construction in Roadless Areas	0596-AB68

Forest Service—Long-Term Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
333	National Forest Prohibitions	0596-AA75
334	Notice, Comment, and Appeal Procedures for National Forest System Projects and Activities	0596-AB69

Forest Service—Completed Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
335	Timber Sale Performance and Payment Bond Form Revision	0596-AA94
336	Retention of Downpayment on Timber Sale Contracts	0596-AB28
337	Disposal of National Forest System Timber; Modification of Timber Sale Contracts in Extraordinary Conditions	0596-AB58
338	Fee Schedule for Communications Facilities Authorized To Use and Occupy National Forest System Lands in Regions 8, 9, and 10	0596-AB60
339	Smith River National Recreation Area	0596-AB64
340	NEPA Procedure for Emergency Actions	0596-AB66

USDA

Office of Chief Financial Officer—Completed Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
341	Administrative Requirements for Grantees To Reflect Single Audit Act Amendments	0505-AA10

Office of the Secretary—Proposed Rule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
342	Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments	0503-AA16

Office of the Secretary—Final Rule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
343	Rural Empowerment Zones-Round II	0503-AA18
344	Uniform Procedures for the Acquisition and Transfer of Excess Personal Property	0503-AA19

Office of the Secretary—Long-Term Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
345	Nondiscrimination in USDA-Conducted Programs and Activities	0503-AA15

Office of the Secretary—Completed Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
346	Supplemental Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Department of Agriculture	0503-AA05
347	Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements With Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Nonprofit Organizations	0503-AA17

Rural Business-Cooperative Service—Prerule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
348	Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program - Financing Cooperative Stock	0570-AA26

Rural Business-Cooperative Service—Proposed Rule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
349	Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program	0570-AA19
350	Direct Business and Industry Loan Program	0570-AA22
351	Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan	0570-AA24
352	Rural Venture Capital Demonstration Program	0570-AA25

USDA**Rural Business-Cooperative Service—Final Rule Stage**

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
353	Rural Business Opportunity Grants	0570-AA05
354	Rural Business Enterprise Grants and Television Demonstration Grants	0570-AA08

Rural Business-Cooperative Service—Long-Term Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
355	National Sheep Industry Improvement Center	0570-AA21
356	Rural Business and Industrial Loan Program - Miscellaneous Changes	0570-AA23

Rural Business-Cooperative Service—Completed Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
357	Intermediary Relending Program Rewrite	0570-AA15

Rural Utilities Service—Proposed Rule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
358	RUS Fidelity and Insurance Requirements for Electric and Telecommunications Borrowers	0572-AA86
359	Loan Forecasts and Market Analysis	0572-AB05
360	Telecommunications System Construction Policies and Procedures	0572-AB34
361	Special Equipment Contract (Including Installation)	0572-AB35
362	RUS Approval of Additions and Extensions to Electric Plants	0572-AB38

Rural Utilities Service—Final Rule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
363	Electric System Planning and Design—Policies and Procedures	0572-AA48
364	Long-Range Financial Forecasts of Electric Borrowers	0572-AA89
365	Environmental Policies and Procedures	0572-AB33

Rural Utilities Service—Long-Term Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
366	Loan Security Documents—Telecommunications Program	0572-AA30
367	Loan Account Computations, Policies, and Procedures	0572-AA65
368	Electric Standards and Specifications for Materials and Construction	0572-AA67
369	Post-Loan Policies and Procedures Common to Insured and Guaranteed Electric Loans	0572-AA71
370	Civil Rights Policies Applicable to RUS Borrowers	0572-AA75
371	Loan Documents—Bank Program	0572-AA76
372	Depreciation Rates and Procedures	0572-AA80
373	Preservation of Records Accounting Requirements for RUS Electric Borrowers	0572-AA92
374	Use of General Funds Investments, Loan Guarantees, and Retirement of Capital Credits by Electric Borrowers	0572-AB01
375	RUS Approval of Sale of Capital Assets by Electric Borrowers	0572-AB02
376	Community Facility Loans—Timber-Dependent Communities	0572-AB11

USDA

Rural Utilities Service—Long-Term Actions (Continued)

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
377	Liquidation of Loans and Acquisition, Management, and Disposal of Security Property	0572-AB13
378	Solid Waste Management Grants	0572-AB14
379	Technical Assistance and Training Grants	0572-AB15
380	Water and Waste Loan and Grant Servicing	0572-AB23

Rural Utilities Service—Completed Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
381	Electric Systems Operations and Maintenance	0572-AA74
382	General Information; Organization & Functions and Loan Making Authority	0572-AB37

Natural Resources Conservation Service—Prerule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
383	Surface Mining Specifications	0578-AA25

Natural Resources Conservation Service—Proposed Rule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
384	Conservation Farm Option (CFO)	0578-AA20

Natural Resources Conservation Service—Final Rule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
385	Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation	0578-AA17
386	7 CFR Part 610 Technical Assistance	0578-AA22

Natural Resources Conservation Service—Long-Term Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
387	Water Bank	0578-AA24

Natural Resources Conservation Service—Completed Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
388	Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)	0578-AA21

USDA

Office of Operations—Long-Term Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
389	New Restrictions on Lobbying	0599-AA03

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Proposed Rule Stage

Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)

1. NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM

Priority: Economically Significant

Legal Authority: PL 101-624, sec 2101 to 2123; 7 USC 6501 to 6522

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 205

Legal Deadline: NPRM, Statutory, May 28, 1992. Final, Statutory, October 1, 1993. Other, Statutory, May 28, 1991. The Organic Foods Production Act calls for the Secretary to appoint the National Organic Standards Board 180 days after enactment and convene it within 60 days thereafter.

Abstract: The program is proposed under the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (Title XX1 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act, P.L. 101-624), as amended (OFPA or Act), which requires the establishment of national standards governing the marketing of certain agricultural products as organically produced to facilitate commerce in fresh and processed food that is organically produced and to assure consumers that such products meet consistent standards. This program would establish national standards for the organic production and handling of agricultural products, which would include a national list of synthetic substances approved for use in the production and handling of organically produced products. It also would establish an accreditation program for State officials and private persons who want to be accredited to certify farms and handling operations that comply with the program's requirements and a certification program for farms and handling operations that want to be certified as meeting the program's requirements. The program additionally would include labeling requirements for organic products and products containing organic ingredients, and enforcement provisions. The rule provides for the approval of State organic programs and the importation into the United States of organic

agricultural products from foreign programs determined to have equivalent requirements. Comments regarding this rule should be sent to: Eileen S. Stommes, Deputy Administrator, USDA, AMS-TM-NOP, Room 4007-So., Ag Stop 0275, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Organic Livestock Hearings	12/30/93	58 FR 69315
Notice - Procedure To Submit Names of Substances for National List	03/27/95	60 FR 15744
NPRM	12/16/97	62 FR 65850
NPRM Comment Period End	04/30/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses

Government Levels Affected: State, Tribal

Analysis: Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

Agency Contact: Eileen Stommes, Deputy Administrator, Transportation and Marketing Programs, Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service, Room 4006 South Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456
Phone: 202 720-3252

RIN: 0581-AA40

2. NATIONAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

Priority: Other Significant

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

Legal Authority: 7 USC 138 to 138i

CFR Citation: None

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The 1990 Farm Bill authorized the creation of a National Laboratory Accreditation Program (NLAP) for laboratories that request accreditation and conduct residue

testing of agricultural products concerning chemical residue levels on agricultural products. The program is designed to protect human health by ensuring that laboratories which make claims to the public concerning pesticide residue levels meet minimum quality and reliability standards. The standards for the NLAP will be provided by the Food and Drug Administration with the operation of the program under the Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA. The program costs will be offset by a fee schedule. The one-time appropriation was used to provide for a fully equipped pesticide laboratory to verify the findings of those laboratories applying for accreditation.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	11/20/92	57 FR 54727
ANPRM Comment Period End	01/19/93	
NPRM	12/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: Undetermined

Agency Contact: I-Pin Ho, Chemist, Technical Services Branch, Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, AMS, Science and Technology Division, P.O. Box 96456, Room 3517-South, Washington, DC 20090-6456
Phone: 202 205-4993
Fax: 202 720-6496

RIN: 0581-AB42

3. • PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, 1998 FEE INCREASE

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 1622 to 1624

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 52.21; 7 CFR 52.38; 7 CFR 52.42; 7 CFR 52.50

Legal Deadline: None

USDA—AMS

Proposed Rule Stage

Abstract: This proposed rule increases the fees and charges assessed for inspection services by approximately 3 to 7 percent and revises certain sections of the regulations for editorial changes.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: James R. Rodeheaver, Chief, Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, AMS, F&V, PPB, Stop 0247, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456
Phone: 202 720-4693
Fax: 202 690-1527

RIN: 0581-AB52

4. • MILK IN THE NEW ENGLAND AND OTHER MARKETING AREAS; (CLASS I AND II PRICES)

Priority: Economically Significant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 601 to 674

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1001 to 1139

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This action will consider proposed amendments that would establish a specific minimum basic formula price to use in calculating the Class I and Class II Federal milk order prices through 1998.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

Government Levels Affected: Undetermined

Analysis: Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

Agency Contact: Connie M. Brenner, Marketing Specialist, Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA-AMS-Dairy-Order Formulation Branch, Room 2971, South Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456
Phone: 202 720-6274
Fax: 202 690-0552
Email: connie_m_brenner@usda.gov

RIN: 0581-AB53

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)

Final Rule Stage

5. FEDERAL MEAT GRADING AND CERTIFICATION SERVICES—1997 USER FEES

Priority: Routine and Frequent

Legal Authority: 7 USC 1621 to 1627

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 54

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The purpose of this rule is to raise the fees for Federal meat grading and certification services to ensure the program operates on a financially self-supporting basis. The fee increase is necessary to offset increased program operating costs resulting from (1) congressionally mandated, Governmentwide salary increases for 1995, 1996, and 1997; (2) Inflation on nonsalary operating costs since 1993; and (3) Accumulated increases in CONUS per diem rates for the 4-year period from 1994 to 1997. The unit cost for providing Federal meat grading and certification services is expected to remain at approximately \$.0006 per pound.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/31/97	62 FR 68233
NPRM Comment Period End	03/02/98	
Final Action	04/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses

Government Levels Affected: None

Sectors Affected: None

Agency Contact: Larry R. Meadows, Chief, Meat Grading and Certification Branch, Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, AMS, LS, MGC, Stop 0248, Room 2628-So., 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-0248
Phone: 202 720-1246
Fax: 202 690-4119

RIN: 0581-AB44

6. FEDERAL MILK ORDER CONSOLIDATION AND REFORM (SECTION 610 REVIEW)

Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Legal Authority: 7 USC 601 to 674

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1139

Legal Deadline: Final, Statutory, April 4, 1999.

Required by Public Law 104-127

Abstract: The Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act requires that the current 32 Federal milk marketing orders be consolidated into between 10 to 14 orders by 4/4/99. The 1996 Farm Bill also directs the

Secretary to designate the State of California as a Federal order if California dairy producers petition for and approve such an order. The Act specifies that USDA use informal rulemaking to implement these reforms.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	01/30/98	63 FR 4802
NPRM Comment Period End	03/31/98	
Final Action	12/00/98	
Final Action Effective	04/00/99	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses, Organizations

Government Levels Affected: State, Local

Analysis: Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

Agency Contact: John F. Borovies, Branch Chief, Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA-AMS-Dairy-Order Formulation Branch, P.O. Box 96456, Room 2971-So. Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20090-6456
Phone: 202 720-6274
Fax: 202 690-0552
Email: john_f_borovies@usda.gov

RIN: 0581-AB49

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)
Long-Term Actions
7. REVISION OF REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE INSPECTION AND GRADING SERVICES OF MANUFACTURED OR PROCESSED DAIRY PRODUCTS
Priority: Routine and Frequent**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 58**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	08/10/92	57 FR 35492
NPRM Comment Period End	10/09/92	

Next Action Undetermined

Small Entities Affected: Businesses**Government Levels Affected:** Federal**Agency Contact:** F. Tracy Schonrock
Phone: 202 690-0530**RIN:** 0581-AA45
8. KIWIFRUIT RESEARCH, PROMOTION, AND CONSUMER INFORMATION ORDER
Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1214**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	10/02/96	61 FR 51378

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM Comment Period End	12/02/96	
NPRM	10/17/97	62 FR 54314
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined**Government Levels Affected:**
Undetermined**Agency Contact:** Martha B. Ransom
Phone: 202 720-9915
Fax: 202 205-2800**RIN:** 0581-AB46
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)
Completed Actions
9. POPCORN PROMOTION, RESEARCH, AND CONSUMER INFORMATION ORDER
Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1215**Completed:**

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	07/22/97	62 FR 39386

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** Martha B. Ransom

Phone: 202 720-9915

Fax: 202 205-2800

RIN: 0581-AB45Phone: 202 720-4180
Fax: 202 690-4413
Email: charles_w_parrott@usda.gov**RIN:** 0581-AB47
11. DAIRY PRODUCTS; GRADING AND INSPECTION, FEE INCREASE
Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 58**Completed:**

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	12/18/97	62 FR 66257
Final Action Effective	01/04/98	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** F. Tracy Schonrock

Phone: 202 720-3171

Fax: 202 690-0552

RIN: 0581-AB50**Abstract:** This rule revises regulations governing the inspection and certification for fresh fruits, vegetables and other products by increasing by approximately 10 percent the fees charged for the inspection of these products at destination markets.**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/17/97	62 FR 66033
NPRM Comment Period End	02/17/98	
Final Action	03/31/98	63 FR 15274
Final Action Effective	04/06/98	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Analysis:** Regulatory Flexibility Analysis**Agency Contact:** Robert J. Huttenlocker, Head, Program Support Section, Fresh Products Branch, Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service, P.O. Box 96456, Room 2049-So., Washington, DC 20090-6456

Phone: 202 720-0297

Fax: 202 720-0393

Email:

robert_j_huttenlocker@usda.gov

RIN: 0581-AB51

BILLING CODE 3410-02-F

10. REVISION OF PART 46.46 REGULATIONS UNDER THE PERISHABLE AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES ACT; TRUST PROVISIONS
Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 46**Completed:**

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	11/14/97	62 FR 60998
Final Action Effective	12/15/97	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** Charles W. Parrott
12. • FEES FOR DESTINATION MARKET INSPECTIONS OF FRESH FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND OTHER PRODUCTS
Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant**Legal Authority:** 7 USC 1621 to 1627**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 51.21; 7 CFR 51.38**Legal Deadline:** None

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Proposed Rule Stage

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

13. LENDER BUYBACK OF REPURCHASED GUARANTEED LOANS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

Legal Authority: 5 USC 301; 7 USC 1989; 42 USC 1480

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1980 subpart B

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Farm Service Agency (FSA) proposes to amend its guaranteed farm loan program regulations to allow a lender to repurchase the guaranteed portion of a loan from a secondary market holder. This change will allow a lender to reimburse the agency, retain the guarantee and service the loan.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/00/98	
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Phillip Elder, Senior Loan Officer, Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, P.O. Box 2415, STOP 0523, Washington, DC 20013

Phone: 202 690-4012

Fax: 202 720-7686

Email: pelder@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AF21

14. • COOPERATIVE MARKETING ASSOCIATIONS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Legal Authority: PL 104-127

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1425

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This action updates the requirements for cooperatives to obtain and maintain status as approved cooperative marketing associations (CMAs). The primary changes are 1) remove the requirement for submission of articles of incorporation by CMAs and their review by FSA, 2) provide new regulations for handling eligibility discrepancies between FSA and CMA records, and 3) replace the requirement for an annual audit to a requirement

for annual submission of a balance sheet certified by a certified public accountant. No direct outlays are expected.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/00/98	
Final Action	07/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig, Acting Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, MS 0572, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-0572

Phone: 202 205-5851

Fax: 202 720-5233

Email: tom_witzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AF33

15. • INAPPLICABILITY TO FSA'S FARM LOAN PROGRAMS OF REDUNDANT INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE COLLECTION AND DEPOSITING OF PROGRAM PAYMENTS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Legal Authority: 5 USC 301; 42 USC 1480

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1951

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This action will revise 7 CFR 1951, subpart B to make the instructions inapplicable to FSA Farm Loan Program (FLP) collection activities. This will allow FSA to incorporate in agency permanent directives (handbooks) the FLP State and county office instructions on how to process collections and make deposits through CCC's deposit mechanisms without the necessity of issuing the instructions as temporary directives. Temporary directives are currently required because the instructions in the CFR apply to more than one Agency, and thus cannot be amended for just one Agency. No cost is expected.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/00/98	
Final Action	08/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig, Acting Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, MS 0572, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-0572

Phone: 202 205-5851

Fax: 202 720-5233

Email: tom_witzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AF34

16. • AMENDMENT TO THE FARM RECONSTITUTION REGULATIONS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 1373; 7 USC 1374; 7 USC 7201 et seq; 15 USC 714b to 714c

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 718

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This action will amend the regulations regarding farm reconstitution of bases, allotments, and quotas to 1) amend, add or change definitions to be more consistent with changes provided for under the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, 2) add a stipulation which requires the county committee to notify farm owners and operators of the results of the farm reconstitution, and 3) provide that reconstitutions after advance payments will not be effective for the current fiscal year. No significant cost is expected.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/00/98	
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig, Acting Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, MS 0572, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-0572

Phone: 202 205-5851

Fax: 202 720-5233

Email: tom_witzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AF36

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Final Rule Stage

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

17. 1998-CROP MARKETING QUOTA AND PRICE SUPPORT LEVEL FOR BURLEY TOBACCO

Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Unfunded Mandates: This action may affect the private sector under PL 104-4.

Legal Authority: 7 USC 1314; 7 USC 1445

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 723; 7 CFR 1464

Legal Deadline: Final, Statutory, February 1, 1998.
Final Deadline for Marketing Quotas is 02/01/98

Abstract: This program is required by statute. Its purpose is to balance supply with demand at levels assuring stable supplies for domestic and export use at prices that are considered sufficient for producers. The national quota is based on cigarette manufacturers' intentions, 3-year average exports, loan stocks adjustment, and a discretionary adjustment of plus or minus 3 percent. The price support is based on a formula that averages market prices (2/3 weight) and a cost index (1/3 weight), plus discretion to limit any increase to 65 percent of the formula increase. Producers will hold a referendum in February, 1988, to determine if they will approve marketing quotas for the 1998-2000 marketing years. Gross loan outlays of \$50 million in FY 1999 are expected to be offset by loan repayments and no-net-cost assessments in FY 1999 and subsequent years for a net cost of 0.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	04/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig, Acting Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, MS 0572, 1400 Independence Ave SW., Washington, DC 20250-0572
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AF18

18. 1998-CROP MARKETING QUOTAS AND PRICE SUPPORT LEVELS FOR EIGHT KINDS OF TOBACCO

Priority: Other Significant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 1312; 7 USC 1445

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 723; 7 CFR 1464

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This program is required by statute to provide marketing quotas/acreage allotments and price support for specific kinds of tobacco. Quotas and allotments are determined by statutory formula to balance supply with demand to assure stable supplies for domestic and export use. Marketing quotas are implemented if approved by producers in referendum. Price support levels are set by statutory formula. The Secretary may reduce levels at the request of producer associations and may limit increases to 65 percent of the formula increase. Gross loan outlays of \$3 million are expected in FY 1998, to be offset by loan redemptions and no-net-cost assessments in FY 1998 and subsequent years, for a net cost of 0. 1998 and 1999 are expected to be offset by repayments and no-net-cost assessments in FY 1998 and subsequent years, for a net cost of 0.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	02/02/98	63 FR 5285
NPRM Comment Period End	02/13/98	
Final Action	05/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig, Acting Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, MS 0572, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-0572
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov
RIN: 0560-AF20

19. • REVISION OF FSA-GUARANTEED LOAN REGULATIONS—INTEREST SUBSIDY FOR GUARANTEED BORROWERS

Priority: Other Significant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 1999; PL 101-508

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1980

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is amending its guaranteed loan-making regulations to implement provisions of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) of 1990 to change the Interest Rate Reduction provisions of section 351 7 USC 1999 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (CONACT). This action will adopt the interim rule published February 28, 1991 with changes based upon comments, as a final rule, which will be effective on publication. Under the interim rule, borrowers were eligible for guaranteed loan assistance with up to a 4 percentage-point reduction in the interest rate paid by FSA. The objective of this final action is to make the program more responsive to the borrowers' and lenders' needs and to reduce the administrative burden on FSA staff, while still protecting the Government's interest. Cash-flow calculations will not specifically consider non-essential assets. They will be considered as part of the test for credit. The 3 percent cap on variable interest rates is being removed, which had kept some lenders from utilizing the program for their borrowers' benefit. Outlays of \$8 million per year are expected, which is the same amount as under the interim rule. This action replaces RIN 0560-AE01.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	02/28/91	56 FR 8257
Final Action	05/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig, Acting Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, MS 0572, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-0572
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: tom_witzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AF35

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
Farm Service Agency (FSA)
Long-Term Actions
**20. PROGRAM INELIGIBILITY FOR
NONCOMPLIANCE WITH BOLL
WEEVIL ERADICATION PROGRAM**
Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

CFR Citation: None

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
 Phone: 202 205-5851
 Fax: 202 720-5233
 Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AD57

**21. SUGAR AND CRYSTALLINE
FRUCTOSE INFORMATION AND
RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS**
Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1435

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
 Phone: 202 205-5851
 Fax: 202 720-5233
 Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AD88

**22. AMENDMENT TO THE
WAREHOUSE REGULATIONS
REGARDING AUCTION TOBACCO
WAREHOUSES**
Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 723; 7 CFR 737

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	07/28/95	60 FR 38766
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
 Phone: 202 205-5851
 Fax: 202 720-5233
 Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AD92

**23. FARMER CREDIT PROGRAM
ACCOUNT SERVICING POLICIES FOR
SECTION 1816 AND OTHER RELATED
SECTIONS FOR THE "1990 FACT
ACT"**
Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1900 subpart B;
 7 CFR 1924 subpart B; 7 CFR 1951
 subpart S

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	10/23/91	56 FR 54970
NPRM Comment Period End	11/22/91	
Interim Final Rule	04/30/92	57 FR 18612
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses

Government Levels Affected: Federal

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
 Phone: 202 205-5851
 Fax: 202 720-5233
 Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AE02

**24. IMPLEMENT SECTION 1818
(BORROWER TRAINING) OF THE
FOOD, AGRICULTURE,
CONSERVATION, AND TRADE ACT
OF 1990 (FACT ACT)**
Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1910 subpart A;
 7 CFR 1943 subpart B; 7 CFR 1924
 subpart B; 7 CFR 1941 subpart A; 7
 CFR 1945 subpart D; 7 CFR 1943
 subpart A; 7 CFR 1951 subpart S; 7
 CFR 1980 subpart B; 7 CFR 1962
 subpart A; 7 CFR 1965 subpart A

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	11/25/92	57 FR 55473
NPRM Comment Period End	12/28/92	
Interim Final Rule	12/30/93	58 FR 69190
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses

Government Levels Affected: Federal

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
 Phone: 202 205-5851
 Fax: 202 720-5233
 Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AE04

**25. GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAMS;
MONITORING LIQUID ACCOUNTS**
Priority: Other Significant

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1980 subpart A;
 7 CFR 1980 subpart B

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/05/94	59 FR 23173
NPRM Comment Period End	07/05/94	
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

Government Levels Affected:
 Undetermined

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
 Phone: 202 205-5851
 Fax: 202 720-5233
 Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AE05

**26. IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTIFIED
LENDER PROGRAM**
Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1980 subpart A;
 7 CFR 1980 subpart B

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	06/24/93	58 FR 34302
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses

Government Levels Affected: Federal

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
 Phone: 202 205-5851
 Fax: 202 720-5233
 Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AE07

**27. INSURED AND GUARANTEED
OPERATING AND FARM OWNERSHIP
LOAN AND RELATED INSTRUCTIONS
TO IMPLEMENT SECTIONS 4, 5, 7, 8,
9, AND 19 OF THE AGRICULTURAL
CREDIT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1992**
Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1910; 7 CFR 1924;
 7 CFR 1941; 7 CFR 1943; 7 CFR 1945;
 7 CFR 1980; 7 CFR 1955

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	09/15/93	58 FR 48275
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

Government Levels Affected: Federal

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
 Phone: 202 205-5851
 Fax: 202 720-5233
 Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AE09

USDA—FSA

Long-Term Actions

28. LOANS TO INDIAN TRIBES AND TRIBAL CORPORATIONS**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1942 subpart F; 7 CFR 1823; 7 CFR 2.23; 7 CFR 2.70**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses, Governmental Jurisdictions, Organizations**Government Levels Affected:** Tribal**Agency Contact:** Tom Witzig

Phone: 202 205-5851

Fax: 202 720-5233

Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AE10**29. SECTION 14 OF THE AGRICULTURAL CREDIT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1992, (GRADUATION) AND SECTIONS 1819 (LOAN ASSESSMENT) AND 1821 (MARKET PLACEMENT) OF THE "FACT ACT"****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1910; 7 CFR 1924; 7 CFR 1941; 7 CFR 1951; 7 CFR 1980; 7 CFR 1943; 7 CFR 1945; 7 CFR 1962**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/30/93	58 FR 69274
NPRM Comment Period End	02/28/94	
Interim Final Rule	07/09/96	61 FR 35916
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** Undetermined**Agency Contact:** Tom Witzig

Phone: 202 205-5851

Fax: 202 720-5233

Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AE11**30. THE AGRICULTURAL CREDIT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1992****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1946; 7 CFR 1980**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	12/17/93	58 FR 65871
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses**Government Levels Affected:** Federal**Agency Contact:** Tom Witzig

Phone: 202 205-5851

Fax: 202 720-5233

Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AE13**31. IMPLEMENT SECTIONS 11 AND 13 OF THE AGRICULTURE CREDIT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1992 (APPLICATION PROCESSING TIMEFRAME)****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1910; 7 CFR 1980**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	12/29/93	58 FR 68717
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** Federal**Agency Contact:** Tom Witzig

Phone: 202 205-5851

Fax: 202 720-5233

Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AE14**32. ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT OF REAL AND CHATTEL PROPERTY****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 2.23; 7 CFR 2.70; 7 CFR 1955A; 7 CFR 1955C**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	12/29/93	58 FR 68722
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses**Government Levels Affected:** Tribal**Agency Contact:** Tom Witzig

Phone: 202 205-5851

Fax: 202 720-5233

Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AE15**33. SMALL FARMER OUTREACH TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1943 subpart C**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	12/27/94	59 FR 66441
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Organizations**Government Levels Affected:** State**Agency Contact:** Tom Witzig

Phone: 202 205-5851

Fax: 202 720-5233

Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AE17**34. DISASTER ASSISTANCE****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1945 subpart A**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses**Government Levels Affected:** State, Tribal**Agency Contact:** Tom Witzig

Phone: 202 205-5851

Fax: 202 720-5233

Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AE22**35. REVISIONS TO THE DIRECT FARM OWNERSHIP LOAN REGULATION (1943-A) OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR MEMBERS OF SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED GROUPS****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1943 subpart A**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses**Government Levels Affected:** Federal**Agency Contact:** Tom Witzig

Phone: 202 205-5851

Fax: 202 720-5233

Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AE23**36. SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED OUTREACH PROGRAM****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1941 subpart A; 7 CFR 1980 subpart B**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses**Government Levels Affected:** Federal

USDA—FSA

Long-Term Actions

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
 Phone: 202 205-5851
 Fax: 202 720-5233
 Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov
RIN: 0560-AE24

37. PART 1946 MEDIATION; SUBPART A AGRICULTURAL LOAN MEDIATION PROGRAM

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant
CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1946 subpart A
Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

Government Levels Affected: State

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
 Phone: 202 205-5851
 Fax: 202 720-5233
 Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov
RIN: 0560-AE26

38. AMENDMENT TO CONSERVATION PROGRAM APPEAL REGULATIONS REGARDING JURISDICTION

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant
CFR Citation: 7 CFR 780
Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	12/29/95	60 FR 67298
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
 Phone: 202 205-5851
 Fax: 202 720-5233
 Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov
RIN: 0560-AE30

39. SELECTION AND FUNCTIONS OF FARM SERVICE AGENCY STATE AND COUNTY COMMITTEES

Priority: Info./Admin./Other
CFR Citation: 7 CFR 7
Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	00/00/00	
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig

Phone: 202 205-5851
 Fax: 202 720-5233
 Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov
RIN: 0560-AE33

40. PERMIT FSA TO SELL OR ASSIGN FARM LOAN MORTGAGES AND NOTES

Priority: Economically Significant
CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1962; 7 CFR 1965
Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	00/00/00	
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses

Government Levels Affected: Federal

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
 Phone: 202 205-5851
 Fax: 202 720-5233
 Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov
RIN: 0560-AE35

41. IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES FOR HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND AND WETLANDS CONSERVATION PROVISIONS OF THE FOOD SECURITY ACT

Priority: Other Significant
CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1940
Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
 Phone: 202 205-5851
 Fax: 202 720-5233
 Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov
RIN: 0560-AE38

42. AMENDMENTS TO THE FARMER ACCOUNT SERVICING POLICIES

Priority: Economically Significant
CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1900; 7 CFR 1910; 7 CFR 1924; 7 CFR 1941; 7 CFR 1943; 7 CFR 1951; 7 CFR 1955; 7 CFR 1956; 7 CFR 1962; 7 CFR 1965
Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	09/14/88	53 FR 35638
NPRM	10/23/91	56 FR 54970
Interim Final Rule	04/30/92	57 FR 18612

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	10/15/92	57 FR 47257
Interim Final Rule	03/23/93	58 FR 15418
Interim Final Rule	05/26/93	58 FR 30104
Interim Final Rule	12/30/93	58 FR 69190
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
 Phone: 202 205-5851
 Fax: 202 720-5233
 Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov
RIN: 0560-AE42

43. AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDARDS FOR APPROVAL OF WAREHOUSE FOR COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION STORAGE CONTRACTS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant
CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1421; 7 CFR 1423; 7 CFR 1427
Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
 Phone: 202 205-5851
 Fax: 202 720-5233
 Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov
RIN: 0560-AE50

44. DELETION OF FSA REGULATIONS REGARDING COLORADO RIVER BASIN SALINITY CONTROL PROGRAM

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant
Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will eliminate existing text in the CFR.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 702; 7 CFR 703; 7 CFR 752
Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
 Phone: 202 205-5851
 Fax: 202 720-5233
 Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov
RIN: 0560-AE54

USDA—FSA

Long-Term Actions

45. AMENDMENT TO THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM REGARDING EARLY CONTRACT TERMINATIONS**Priority:** Other Significant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 704**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	03/15/96	61 FR 10671
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** Tom Witzig

Phone: 202 205-5851

Fax: 202 720-5233

Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560—AE56**46. IMPLEMENTATION OF FIVE-YEAR DIRECT LINE OF CREDIT PROGRAM****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1941, subpart A**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** Tom Witzig

Phone: 202 205-5851

Fax: 202 720-5233

Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560—AE58**47. AMENDMENTS TO THE REGULATIONS FOR COTTON WAREHOUSES UNDER THE UNITED STATES WAREHOUSE ACT—ELECTRONIC BLOCK WAREHOUSE RECEIPTS, INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS, AND OTHER PROVISIONS****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 735**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	11/29/96	61 FR 60637
NPRM Comment Period End	01/28/97	
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** Tom Witzig

Phone: 202 205-5851

Fax: 202 720-5233

Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560—AE60**48. POST-BANKRUPTCY LOAN SERVICING NOTIFICATION****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1962**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	07/18/96	61 FR 37405
NPRM Comment Period End	08/02/96	
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** Tom Witzig

Phone: 202 205-5851

Fax: 202 720-5233

Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560—AE62**49. CONSOLIDATE FSA FARM CREDIT PROGRAMS REGULATIONS—MISCELLANEOUS PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1806; 7 CFR 1900; 7 CFR 1901; 7 CFR 1902; 7 CFR 1910; 7 CFR 1940; 7 CFR 1950; 7 CFR 1951; 7 CFR 2018; 7 CFR 2045; 7 CFR ch XIV

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** Tom Witzig

Phone: 202 205-5851

Fax: 202 720-5233

Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560—AE64**50. CONSOLIDATE FSA FARM CREDIT PROGRAMS DIRECT LOAN SERVICING REGULATIONS—MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL OF ACQUIRED PROPERTY****Priority:** Other Significant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1955; 7 CFR 1951; 7 CFR ch XIV

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** Tom Witzig

Phone: 202 205-5851

Fax: 202 720-5233

Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560—AE65**51. CONSOLIDATE FSA FARM CREDIT PROGRAM DIRECT LOAN SERVICING REGULATIONS—DELINQUENT ACCOUNT RESTRUCTURING AND LIQUIDATION****Priority:** Other Significant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1951; 7 CFR 1955; 7 CFR 1956; 7 CFR 1962; 7 CFR 1965; 7 CFR ch XVIII

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** Tom Witzig

Phone: 202 205-5851

Fax: 202 720-5233

Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560—AE66

USDA—FSA

Long-Term Actions

52. CONSOLIDATE FSA FARM CREDIT PROGRAMS DIRECT LOAN SERVICING REGULATIONS—MANAGEMENT ADVICE, TAX SERVICING, COLLECTION, AND SECURITY SERVICING

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1924; 7 CFR 1925; 7 CFR 1951; 7 CFR 1962; 7 CFR 1965; 7 CFR ch XIV

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AE67

53. ELIMINATE INTERNAL AGENCY PROVISIONS FROM FSA FARM CREDIT PROGRAMS REGULATIONS—MISCELLANEOUS PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will eliminate existing text in the CFR.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1806; 7 CFR 1900; 7 CFR 1901; 7 CFR 1902; 7 CFR 1910; 7 CFR 1940; 7 CFR 1950; 7 CFR 1951; 7 CFR 2018; 7 CFR 2045

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AE68

54. ELIMINATE INTERNAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS FROM FSA FARM CREDIT PROGRAM REGULATIONS—MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL OF ACQUIRED PROPERTY

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will eliminate existing text in the CFR.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1951; 7 CFR 1955

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov
RIN: 0560-AE69

55. ELIMINATE INTERNAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS FROM FSA FARM CREDIT PROGRAM DIRECT LOAN REGULATIONS—DELINQUENT ACCOUNT SERVICING AND LIQUIDATION

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will eliminate existing text in the CFR.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1951; 7 CFR 1955; 7 CFR 1956; 7 CFR 1962

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov
RIN: 0560-AE70

56. ELIMINATE INTERNAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS FROM FSA FARM CREDIT PROGRAMS DIRECT LOAN SERVICING REGULATIONS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will eliminate existing text in the CFR.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1924; 7 CFR 1925; 7 CFR 1951; 7 CFR 1962; 7 CFR 1965

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AE71

57. ELIMINATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS FROM FSA FARM CREDIT PROGRAM DIRECT LOANMAKING REGULATIONS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will eliminate existing text in the CFR.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1823; 7 CFR 1901; 7 CFR 1910; 7 CFR 1924; 7 CFR 1927; 7 CFR 1940; 7 CFR 1941; 7 CFR 1943; 7 CFR 1945; 7 CFR 1951

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AE73

58. CONSOLIDATION OF FSA FARM CREDIT PROGRAMS DIRECT LOANMAKING REGULATIONS

Priority: Other Significant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1823; 7 CFR 1901; 7 CFR 1910; 7 CFR 1924; 7 CFR 1927; 7 CFR 1940; 7 CFR 1941; 7 CFR 1943; 7 CFR 1945; 7 CFR 1951; 7 CFR ch XIV

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	00/00/00	

USDA—FSA

Long-Term Actions

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AE74

59. ELIMINATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS FROM FSA FARM CREDIT PROGRAMS GUARANTEED LOANMAKING REGULATIONS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will eliminate existing text in the CFR.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1980

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AE75

60. CONSOLIDATION OF FSA FARM CREDIT PROGRAMS GUARANTEED LOANMAKING REGULATIONS

Priority: Other Significant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1980

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AE76

61. ELIMINATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS FROM FSA REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO FARM CREDIT PROGRAMS LOAN RATES, FUNDING, AND LOAN AUTHORITIES

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will eliminate existing text in the CFR.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1810; 7 CFR 1901; 7 CFR 1902; 7 CFR 1940; 7 CFR 1951

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AE77

62. CONSOLIDATION OF FSA FARM CREDIT PROGRAMS REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO LOAN RATES, FUNDING, AND LOAN AUTHORITIES

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1810; 7 CFR 1901; 7 CFR 1902; 7 CFR 1940; 7 CFR 1951; 7 CFR ch XIV

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AE78

63. ELIMINATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS FROM FSA FARM CREDIT PROGRAMS ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing

Government effort. It will eliminate existing text in the CFR.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1901; 7 CFR 1940

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AE79

64. CONSOLIDATION OF FARM SERVICE AGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS REGULATIONS

Priority: Other Significant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1901; 7 CFR 1940; 7 CFR ch XIV

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AE80

65. SUSPENSION OF THE EMERGENCY LIVESTOCK ASSISTANCE REGULATIONS FOR CROP YEARS 1996 TO 2002

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1475

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AE86

USDA—FSA

Long-Term Actions

66. REVISION TO THE DIRECT LOANMAKING REGULATIONS**Priority:** Other Significant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1910; 7 CFR 1941; 7 CFR 1943; 7 CFR 1945; 7 CFR 1980**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	03/03/97	62 FR 9351
Interim Final Rule Comment Period End	03/24/97	
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
 Phone: 202 205-5851
 Fax: 202 720-5233
 Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov
RIN: 0560-AE87

67. REVISION OF THE INVENTORY PROPERTY MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS**Priority:** Other Significant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1955**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	08/21/97	62 FR 44393
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
 Phone: 202 205-5851
 Fax: 202 720-5233
 Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov
RIN: 0560-AE88

68. REVISIONS TO THE DELINQUENT ACCOUNT SERVICING REGULATIONS**Priority:** Other Significant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1951; 7 CFR 1956; 7 CFR 1962; 7 CFR 1965**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	03/05/97	62 FR 10117
Interim Final Rule Comment Period End	05/13/97	
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
 Phone: 202 205-5851

Fax: 202 720-5233
 Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov
RIN: 0560-AE89

69. DIRECT LINE OF CREDIT PROGRAM**Priority:** Other Significant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1910; 7 CFR 1924; 7 CFR 1941**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	00/00/00	
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
 Phone: 202 205-5851
 Fax: 202 720-5233
 Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov
RIN: 0560-AE90

70. REVISION OF REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO INDIAN TRIBES AND TRIBAL CORPORATIONS**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1823; 7 CFR 1942-F; 7 CFR 1956-C**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
 Phone: 202 205-5851
 Fax: 202 720-5233
 Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov
RIN: 0560-AE91

71. SUBORDINATION OF DIRECT LOAN BASIC SECURITY TO SECURE A GUARANTEED LOAN**Priority:** Other Significant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1962; 7 CFR 1965; 7 CFR 1980**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	09/09/97	62 FR 47384

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM Comment Period End	11/10/97	
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
 Phone: 202 205-5851
 Fax: 202 720-5233
 Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov
RIN: 0560-AE92

72. AMENDMENTS TO THE TOBACCO MARKETING QUOTA REGULATIONS**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 723**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	03/21/97	62 FR 13546
NPRM Comment Period End	05/20/97	
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
 Phone: 202 205-5851
 Fax: 202 720-5233
 Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov
RIN: 0560-AE96

73. DISASTER SET-ASIDE PROGRAM**Priority:** Other Significant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1951, subpart S**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	08/01/97	62 FR 41251
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
 Phone: 202 205-5851
 Fax: 202 720-5233
 Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov
RIN: 0560-AE98

74. BOLL WEEVIL ERADICATION LOAN PROGRAM**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1941, subpart C**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	05/16/97	62 FR 26918
Final Action	00/00/00	

USDA—FSA

Long-Term Actions

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AE99

75. AMENDMENTS TO UPDATE THE TOBACCO PROGRAM REGULATIONS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 711; 7 CFR 714; 7 CFR 717; 7 CFR 723; 7 CFR 1464

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AF05

76. AMENDMENTS TO UPDATE THE PEANUT PROGRAM REGULATIONS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1446

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AF06

77. AMENDMENTS TO UPDATE FARM PROGRAM PAYMENT LIMITATION AND DISASTER REGULATIONS UNDER THE NATIONAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will eliminate existing text in the CFR.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 777; 7 CFR 795; 7 CFR 1400

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AF10

78. AMENDMENT TO THE COTTON WAREHOUSE REGULATIONS REGARDING THE DEFINITION OF "UNNECESSARY DELAY"

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 735

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AF13

79. AMENDMENTS TO THE DEBT SETTLEMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO CONFORM TO THE DEBT COLLECTION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1996

Priority: Other Significant

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 792; 7 CFR 1403; 7 CFR 1404

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AF22

80. • AMENDMENTS TO THE FORAGE PROVISIONS OF THE NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 7333

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1437

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This action will revise the forage provisions of the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program to provide a methodology for calculating losses of eligible forage crops that are predominantly grazed. The revised procedures will require the county FSA committee to categorize each forage plant species or type or variety of a species as either predominantly grazed or predominantly mechanically harvested. There is no change in the methodology for calculating losses of eligible crops that are predominantly mechanically harvested. Eligible producers of forage predominantly grazed would, in place of annual production records, be required, in the year of the loss, to provide records of livestock utilization and supplemental feed in order to determine the value of the loss. A small increase in participation might result. No significant change in outlays is expected.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	10/17/97	62 FR 53929
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig, Acting Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, MS 0572, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-0572
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AF23

USDA—FSA

Long-Term Actions

81. • FLOOD RISK REDUCTION PROGRAM**Priority:** Other Significant**Legal Authority:** 7 USC 7334**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1471**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: This action will implement the Flood Risk Reduction Program for persons with contract acreage that is frequently flooded. With respect to the acres that are subject to the contract, the producer must agree to 1) terminate any contract acreage and production flexibility contract under the Agricultural Market Transition Act, 2) forego loans for contract commodities, oilseeds, and extra-long staple cotton, 3) not apply for crop insurance issued or reissued by the Secretary, 4) comply with applicable highly erodible land and wetlands requirements under Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985, 5) not apply for any conservation program payments from the Secretary, 6) not apply for disaster program benefits provided by the Secretary, and 6) refund payments, with interest, if the contract is violated. In return, participants receive up to 95 percent of the amount they would have received under a production flexibility contract on the same land. Payments in FY 1998 of about \$7 million are expected, with offsetting reductions in production flexibility contract payments of about \$7.4 million during FY's 1998-2002.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig, Acting Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, MS 0572, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-0572
 Phone: 202 205-5851
 Fax: 202 720-5233
 Email: tom_witzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AF24**82. • AMENDMENTS TO THE PRODUCTION FLEXIBILITY CONTRACT FOR WHEAT, FEED GRAINS, RICE, AND UPLAND COTTON****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Legal Authority:** 15 USC 714b to 714c**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1412**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: This action will amend the production flexibility contract regulations to 1) add a final date for producers to designate payments shares and provide supporting documentation to be eligible to earn contract payments in the current fiscal year when payment shares have not been designated in the current fiscal year, 2) change the dates by which a producer or owner must inform county committees of changes in interest, 3) add a final date for producers to request advance payments, 4) clarify cash lease provisions, 5) change the provisions for determining whether a lease is a cash lease or a share lease with respect to combination leases, and 6) change the date by which all persons eligible to receive a share of the contract payment must execute a contract in the current fiscal year to be eligible to earn contract payments in the current fiscal year when landowners, tenants and sharecroppers on a farm fail to reach an agreement regarding the division of the contract payments. No change in outlays is expected.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	10/23/97	62 FR 55150
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig, Acting Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, MS 0572, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-0572
 Phone: 202 205-5851
 Fax: 202 720-5233
 Email: tom_witzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AF25**83. • REFUND OF MARKETING QUOTA PENALTIES AND TOBACCO AUCTION WAREHOUSE RECORDS AND REPORTS****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Legal Authority:** 7 USC 1372; 7 USC 1373**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 714; 7 CFR 723; 7 CFR 729**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: This rule will require tobacco auction warehouses to maintain buyer correction accounts (BCAs) separate from the warehouse leaf accounts. Currently, shortage adjustments from a buyer back to the warehouse show as purchases for the warehouse's leak account. This in turn allows the warehouse to have resales of tobacco that it did not purchase. The purpose of the BCA's is to provide adjustments for tobacco buyers' accounts, not resale credits. In addition, the rule will remove 7 CFR 714, Refunds of Penalties Erroneously, Illegally, or Wrongfully Collected, from the CFR because it is no longer needed. The provisions for refunds of marketing quota penalties for peanuts and tobacco will be incorporated in parts 729 and 723, respectively. No cost is expected.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig, Acting Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, MS 0572, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-0572
 Phone: 202 205-5851
 Fax: 202 720-5233
 Email: tom_witzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov
RIN: 0560-AF26

84. • REFUND OF MARKETING QUOTA PENALTIES AND OTHER PEANUT PROGRAM PROVISIONS**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Legal Authority:** 7 USC 1372; 7 USC 1373**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 729**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: This rule will add provisions to the Peanut Poundage Quota

USDA—FSA

Long-Term Actions

regulations to allow for the issuance of marketing cards for peanuts by type and segregation rather than only for quota or additional, will clarify the regulations applicable to considered-produced credit for out-of-county and within-county transfers, will amend the tolerance for acreage certification for temporary seed quota to agree with the FSA Handbook (2-CP), and will modify signature requirements for approving quota transfers. No cost will be incurred.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig, Acting Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, MS 0572, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-0572
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: tom_witzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov
RIN: 0560-AF27

85. • CONTRACTING ADDITIONAL PEANUTS BY TYPE AND SEGREGATION

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 7271; 15 USC 714b to 714c

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1446

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This rule will amend the regulations for contracting additional peanuts for export or crushing to allow for contracting peanuts by type and segregation. No cost will be incurred.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig, Acting Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, MS 0572, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-0572
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: tom_witzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov
RIN: 0560-AF28

86. • AMERICAN INDIAN LIVESTOCK FEED PROGRAM

Priority: Other Significant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 1427a

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1439

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This program will make assistance available to American Indian and Alaskan Native tribes when, as a result of a natural disaster occurring on reservations or other land designated for Indian use, significant loss of livestock feed has occurred and a livestock feed emergency exists. Upon a request from the eligible tribal authority, CCC will consider approval of an area designation. An area will consist of either a minimum 320,000 aggregate acres or the reservation. Direct cash payments will be provided American Indian limited resource livestock producers on the basis of the number of eligible livestock and a payment rate of 30 percent of the animal unit day (AUD) value. CCC will determine the AUD value on the basis of the national 5-year average price of corn and the daily energy requirement equivalent for one animal unit of 15.7 pounds of corn. Expected outlays are \$4 million annually for 5 years, beginning in 1998.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig, Acting Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, MS 0572, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-0572
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: tom_witzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov
RIN: 0560-AF29

87. • SUGAR PROGRAM INFORMATION REPORTING AND RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 7272

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1435

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: USDA is statutorily required to collect monthly data from sugarcane

and sugar beet processors, and cane sugar refiners on sugar production, importation, distribution and stocks. The data are needed to administer the sugar program. This action will clarify some definitions to ensure statutory and regulatory compliance and data integrity. No cost will be incurred.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig, Acting Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, MS 0572, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-0572
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: tom_witzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov
RIN: 0560-AF31

88. • UPLAND COTTON USER MARKETING CERTIFICATE PROGRAM; REVISION OF REGULATIONS

Priority: Other Significant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 7235; PL 105-86

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1427

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This action will amend the regulations governing the Upland Cotton User Marketing Certificate Program to conform to recent legislation. It will 1) amend the agreement between CCC and each program participant, i.e., cotton exporters and cotton textile manufacturers who sign the agreement, 2) set forth the end-of-year transition procedure for the Step 3 trigger, 3) provide consistent procedures for both Step 2 and Step 3 determinations by specifying that only current-price quotations are to be used for both, and 4) remove obsolete provisions regarding past Step 2 claims. The expenditure for Step 2 payments was capped in the 1996 Act at \$701 million over the FY 1996 - 2002 period. The budget baseline projects that the entire amount would have been spent under the current regulations for Step 2. The triggering of Step 3 quotas for raw upland cotton will be less likely. However, given expected prices, no

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Long-Term Actions

imports of raw cotton are projected under the baseline with or without the change.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	
Interim Final Rule	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig, Acting Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, MS 0572, 1400

Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-0572
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: tom_witzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov
RIN: 0560-AF32

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Completed Actions

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

89. FARMER PROGRAMS GUARANTEED INTEREST ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1980 subpart A; 7 CFR 1980 subpart B; 7 CFR 1980 subpart D; 7 CFR 1980 subpart E; 7 CFR 1980 subpart G

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Withdrawn - Replaced by RIN 0560-AF35	01/28/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AE01

90. DECISION TO LIQUIDATE

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1980

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Withdrawn - Transferred to NRCS	01/12/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AE19

91. COLLECTION OF SHARED APPRECIATION AGREEMENTS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1951

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	02/10/98	63 FR 6627

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov
RIN: 0560-AE61

92. 1997-CROP PEANUTS NATIONAL POUNDAGE QUOTA, NATIONAL AVERAGE LOAN RATES, AND MINIMUM CCC EXPORT-EDIBLE SALES PRICE FOR ADDITIONAL PEANUTS

Priority: Other Significant

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 729; 7 CFR 1464; 7 CFR 1421

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	11/25/97	62 FR 62689

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AF01

93. AMENDMENTS TO THE REGULATIONS FOR PROCUREMENT OF PROCESSED AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES FOR DONATION TO COMPLY WITH THE MARITIME SECURITY ACT OF 1996

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1496

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	03/06/98	63 FR 11101
Final Action Effective	04/06/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov
RIN: 0560-AF09

94. SPECIAL COMBINATIONS OF FLUE-CURED TOBACCO ALLOTMENTS AND QUOTAS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 718; 7 CFR 723

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	02/24/98	63 FR 9126
Final Action Effective	02/24/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AF14

95. AMENDMENT TO THE FARM RECONSTITUTION REGULATIONS

Priority: Other Significant

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 718

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Withdrawn - Replaced by RIN 0560-AF36	01/28/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig
Phone: 202 205-5851
Fax: 202 720-5233
Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AF16

USDA—FSA

Completed Actions

96. TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR 1997**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1478**Completed:**

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	01/27/98	63 FR 3791

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** Tom Witzig

Phone: 202 205-5851

Fax: 202 720-5233

Email: twitzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AF17**97. • DAIRY INDEMNITY PAYMENT PROGRAM****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Legal Authority:** PL 105-86**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 760**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: The Dairy Indemnity Payment Program indemnifies dairy farmers for milk dumped because of contamination that was not the result of the producer and indemnifies dairy manufacturers for dairy products removed from the market through no fault of their own. The program is authorized on a year-to-year basis by USDA's annual appropriations Acts. This action will reauthorize the program through 9/30/98 in accordance with the FY 1998 Agriculture Appropriations Act. Reauthorization is mandatory. No program changes are

being made. The action will only amend the CFR to update the authority citation. The appropriation is for \$550,000 for FY 1998.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	12/31/97	62 FR 68142

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None

Agency Contact: Tom Witzig, Acting Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, MS 0572, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-0572

Phone: 202 205-5851

Fax: 202 720-5233

Email: tom_witzig@wdc.fsa.usda.gov

RIN: 0560-AF30**BILLING CODE** 3410-05-F

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Proposed Rule Stage

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

98. ANIMAL WELFARE—STANDARDS FOR MARINE MAMMALS**Priority:** Other Significant**Legal Authority:** 7 USC 2131 to 2159**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 3**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: The Department regulates the treatment of certain marine mammals under the Animal Welfare Act. The present standards for treatment of these animals have been in effect for over 10 years. During this time, advances have been made and new information has been developed with regard to the housing and care of marine mammals. The Department has given notice of its review of the present standards to determine what revisions or additions might be necessary, and has requested comments on appropriate specific standards for treatment of marine mammals. The Department has conducted negotiated rulemaking (Reg Neg) and is developing proposed changes to the regulations. In addition to identifying regulatory provisions for revision based on negotiated rulemaking the Department is conducting separate rulemaking to establish standards governing "swim with the dolphins" (SWTD) programs.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	07/23/93	58 FR 39458
ANPRM Comment Period End	10/06/93	
NPRM	01/23/95	60 FR 4383
NPRM Comment Period End	02/22/95	
NPRM Comment Period Extended (Swim With the Dolphins (SWTD))	02/28/95	60 FR 10810
NPRM Comment Period Extended SWTD	03/09/95	60 FR 12908
NPRM Reopened and Extended Comment Period (SWTD)	03/24/95	60 FR 15524
Notice, Establish a Committee (Reg Neg)	05/22/95	60 FR 27049
Correction (Reg Neg)	06/02/95	60 FR 28834
NPRM Animal Welfare; Marine Mammals	06/00/98	
Final Action SWTD	06/00/98	
Comment Period End	08/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined**Government Levels Affected:** Undetermined

Agency Contact: Dr. Barbara Kohn, Veterinary Medical Officer, Animal Care, Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection

Service, 4700 River Road Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737-1234
Phone: 301 734-7833

RIN: 0579-AA59**99. USER FEES, VETERINARY DIAGNOSTICS****Priority:** Other Significant

Legal Authority: 5 USC 5542; 7 USC 1622; 19 USC 1306; 21 USC 102 to 105; 21 USC 111; 21 USC 114; 21 USC 114a; 21 USC 134a to 134d; 21 USC 134f; 21 USC 135; 21 USC 136; 21 USC 136a

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 130**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is proposing to revise current fees for cost increases or decreases in the user fee program and to propose additional fees for goods and services which APHIS provides. The purpose is to more accurately provide for full-cost recovery of Agency activities. Fees being revised include: user fees at APHIS's animal import centers and user fees at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) (including the labs at the Foreign Animal Diseases Diagnostic Laboratory (FADDL)) to account for cost increases and decreases. New user fees are being proposed for the following: use of new

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Proposed Rule Stage

spaces at the APHIS animal center in Newburgh, NY; hourly services; and veterinary diagnostic tests, reagents, and services.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

Government Levels Affected: Undetermined

Agency Contact: Barbara Thompson, Chief, BAD, Financial Systems Services Branch, Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, 4700 River Road Unit 54, Riverdale, MD 20737-1232
Phone: 301 734-5901

RIN: 0579-AA70

100. ANIMAL WELFARE—STANDARDS FOR ANIMAL AUCTIONS

Priority: Other Significant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 2131 to 2159

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 1; 9 CFR 2; 9 CFR 3

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This proposal would establish standards designed specifically for the humane handling, care, treatment, and transportation of animals covered by the Animal Welfare Act that are held in auction markets. Currently, the treatment of animals at auction sales is being enforced under general regulations for warmblooded animals that are not otherwise covered by the regulations.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	07/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

Government Levels Affected: Undetermined

Agency Contact: Stephen Smith, Staff Animal Health Technician, Animal Care, Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, 4700 River Road Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737-1234
Phone: 301 734-4972
Fax: 301 734-4978

RIN: 0579-AA76

101. PLANT PEST REGULATIONS; UPDATE OF CURRENT PROVISIONS

Priority: Other Significant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 7 USC 149; 7 USC 150bb; 7 USC 150dd; 7 USC 150ee; 7 USC 150ff; 7 USC 154; 7 USC 159; 7 USC 160; 7 USC 162; 7 USC 2260; 21 USC 136; 21 USC 136a; 31 USC 9701

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 330

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: APHIS is developing a proposal to amend its plant pest regulations by: (1) Setting out the criteria that will be used by APHIS when considering whether an organism is a plant pest; (2) adding a permit category for organisms that would be released into the environment for purposes such as the biological control of weeds; (3) establishing a notification system that could be used in place of permits for the importation and interstate movement of certain low-risk organisms; and (4) revising or amending existing portions of the regulations to clarify or update requirements, eliminate redundancy, and make the regulations easier for the public to use. These proposed changes will serve as a follow-up to the advance notice of proposed rulemaking that APHIS published in the Federal Register on September 27, 1996, to solicit input on the need for regulatory changes and alternative methods of addressing plant pest risk.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	09/27/96	61 FR 50767
ANPRM Comment Period End	12/26/96	
NPRM	04/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Dr. Robert Flanders, Entomologist, PPQ Biological Assessment and Taxonomic Support, Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, 4700 River Road Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236
Phone: 301 734-8896

Email: bflanders@aphis.usda.gov

RIN: 0579-AA80

102. IMPORTATION OF LOGS, LUMBER, AND OTHER UNMANUFACTURED WOOD ARTICLES

Priority: Other Significant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 7 USC 150dd; 7 USC 150ee; 7 USC 150ff; 7 USC 151 to 167; 7 USC 450; 7 USC 2803; 7 USC 2809; 21 USC 136; 21 USC 136a

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 319

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This rule would amend the universal importation option for importing wood chips fumigated with methyl bromide to make it apply only to shipments totaling 120 cubic feet or less. This action appears necessary because methyl bromide fumigation has proven to be ineffective when used on shipments of more than 120 cubic feet. We have, however, determined that a surface pesticide treatment is effective in rendering large shipments of Pinus radiata wood chips from Chile free of plant pests, and have approved a surface pesticide treatment for use on Pinus radiata wood chips from Chile. Therefore, this rule would also allow the importation of Pinus radiata wood chips from Chile if the surfaces of the wood chips are treated with a pesticide approved by the Administrator. We do not believe that this change would have a significant economic impact on U.S. wood chip producers because imports from Chile would not be in direct competition with wood chips produced in the United States. An immediate positive impact would be that several U.S. pulp producers at risk of being forced to reduce production or close due to lack of wood chip supply would be able to remain in production. This rule would also allow solid wood packing materials used with nonregulated articles to be imported without an importer document.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/00/98	

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Proposed Rule Stage

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM Comment Period End	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Ronald Campbell, Operations Officer, Program Support Staff, PPQ, APHIS, Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, 4700 River Road UNIT 60, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236
Phone: 301 734-8295
Email: rcampbell@aphis.usda.gov

RIN: 0579-AA82

103. VETERINARY SERVICES MULTI-YEAR USER FEES

Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Legal Authority: 5 USC 5542; 7 USC 1622; 19 USC 1306; 21 USC 102 to 105; 21 USC 111; 21 USC 114 to 114a; 21 USC 134a to 134d; 21 USC 134f; 21 USC 135; 21 USC 136 to 136a

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 130

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: We are proposing to amend the user fee regulations by adjusting the fees charged for veterinary services we provide for import and export related activities. We are proposing to adopt user fees for these services for fiscal year 1998 through 2003. Costs to operate the Veterinary Services import-export program increase slightly from year to year due to increase in employee costs (i.e., cost of living, etc.) and changes in other operational costs. Therefore, we have determined that the fees must be adjusted to reflect the

anticipated cost of providing these services through fiscal year 2003.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

Government Levels Affected: Undetermined

Agency Contact: Louise Lothery, Director, VS, Resource Management Support Staff, Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, 4700 River Road Unit 44, Riverdale, MD 20737
Phone: 301 734-7517

Donna Ford, Section Head, M&B, Budget and Accounting Division, Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, 4700 River Road Unit 54, Riverdale, MD 20737
Phone: 301 734-5785

RIN: 0579-AA87

104. • IMPORTATION OF GRAPEFRUIT, LEMONS, AND ORANGES FROM ARGENTINA

Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Legal Authority: 7 USC 150dd to 150ff; 7 USC 151 to 167; 7 USC 450; 7 USC 2803; 7 USC 2809; 21 USC 136; 21 USC 136a

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 300; 7 CFR 319.28; 7 CFR 319.56

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: APHIS is proposing to amend its citrus fruit regulations by recognizing a citrus-growing area within Argentina as being free from

citrus canker. Surveys conducted by Argentine plant health authorities in that area of Argentina have shown the area to be free from citrus canker, and Argentine authorities are enforcing restrictions designed to protect the area from the introduction of that disease. APHIS is also proposing to amend its fruits and vegetables regulations to allow the importation of grapefruit, lemons, and oranges from the citrus canker-free area of Argentina under conditions designed to prevent the introduction into the United States of two other diseases of citrus, sweet orange scab and citrus black spot, and other plant pests. These proposed changes would modify the citrus fruits regulations to recognize the citrus canker-free area of Argentina and would add provisions to the fruits and vegetables regulations that would allow the importation, from Argentina, of grapefruit, lemons, and oranges subject to certain conditions.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	07/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: James A. Petit de Mange, Import Specialist, Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, PPQ, Phytosanitary Issues Management Team, 4700 River Road Unit 140, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236
Phone: 301 734-6799

Fax: 301 734-5786

Email: jpdmanage@aphis.usda.gov

RIN: 0579-AA92

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Final Rule Stage

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

105. ADDITION OF CERVIDAE TO THE REGULATIONS CONCERNING TUBERCULOSIS IN LIVESTOCK

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Legal Authority: 21 USC 105; 21 USC 111 to 113; 21 USC 114; 21 USC 114a; 21 USC 115 to 117; 21 USC 120 to 121; 21 USC 134b; 21 USC 134f

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 77; 9 CFR 91

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: Bovine tuberculosis is a contagious, infectious, and communicable disease affecting cattle, bison, and other species, including humans. The spread of bovine tuberculosis in the United States could have serious consequences for the United States cattle and bison industries, as well as for human health. Currently, the regulations concerning control and eradication programs for bovine tuberculosis in livestock only

regulate cattle, bison, and swine. Recent outbreaks in the United States of bovine tuberculosis in semi-domesticated herds of cervidae (such as deer and elk) have made apparent the need to also regulate captive cervids raised for agricultural purposes, sport, or exhibition, in order to prevent the spread of bovine tuberculosis.

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Final Rule Stage

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/04/96	61 FR 14982
NPRM Comment Period End	06/03/96	
Final Action	04/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Analysis:** Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

Agency Contact: Dr. Joseph Van Tiem, Staff Veterinarian, VS, National Animal Health Program, Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, 4700 River Road Unit 43, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231
Phone: 301 734-7716

RIN: 0579-AA53**106. PHYTOSANITARY EXPORT CERTIFICATION; ACCREDITATION OF NONGOVERNMENT FACILITIES****Priority:** Other Significant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 7 USC 147a; 21 USC 136; 21 USC 136a; 44 USC 35**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 353**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: APHIS is proposing to amend the export certification regulations to provide for the establishment of a program under which non-government facilities could become accredited to perform specific laboratory testing or phytosanitary inspection services that could serve as the basis for the issuance of Federal phytosanitary certificates. The accreditation criteria for particular laboratory testing and phytosanitary inspection services would be developed by APHIS in cooperation with other appropriate governmental, industry, academic, or research entities. Currently, only tests conducted by public laboratories or inspections carried out by Federal or State inspectors and agents may be used as the basis for the issuance of a Federal phytosanitary certificate. The proposed accreditation program would provide a mechanism for qualified nongovernment facilities to become accredited to perform the testing or inspection services that may be used

as supporting documentation for the issuance of phytosanitary certificates for certain plants or plant products.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	11/25/97	62 FR 62699
NPRM Comment Period End	01/26/98	
Final Action	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined**Government Levels Affected:** Undetermined

Agency Contact: Mr. Nancy G. Klag, Senior Operations Officer, Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Port Operations, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 139, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236

Phone: 301 734-8537

Email: nklag@aphis.usda.gov

RIN: 0579-AA75**107. KARNAL BUNT****Priority:** Economically Significant. Major under 5 USC 801.**Legal Authority:** 7 USC 147a; 7 USC 150bb; 7 USC 150dd to 150ff; 7 USC 151 to 167; 7 USC 450; 7 USC 2803; 7 USC 2809; 21 USC 136 to 136a**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 301; 7 CFR 319**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: Karnal bunt is a fungal disease of wheat (*Triticum aestivum*), durum wheat (*Triticum durum*), and triticale (*Triticum aestivum* x *Secale cereale*), a hybrid of wheat and rye. The establishment of Karnal bunt in the United States would have significant consequences with regard to the export of wheat to international markets. Prior to March 8, 1996, Karnal bunt was not known to exist in the United States. Since March 8, 1996, Karnal bunt has been detected within several States. In response, we have established regulations that define regulated areas in certain States because of Karnal bunt, that restrict the movement of certain articles from the regulated areas to prevent the spread of Karnal bunt, and provide compensation for certain growers, handlers, and other individuals in the regulated areas to mitigate losses and expenses incurred because of actions taken by the Secretary to prevent the spread of Karnal bunt. As part of a continuing Karnal bunt program, we anticipate that

the regulations concerning regulated areas, movement restrictions, and compensation will be revised as more is known about the Karnal bunt situation in the United States.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	07/05/96	61 FR 35102
NPRM	08/02/96	61 FR 40354
NPRM Comment Period End	09/03/96	
Final Rule	10/04/96	61 FR 52190
Final Rule Effective Date	11/04/96	
Interim Rule Effective 04/25/97 Change Classification of Regulated Areas	05/01/97	62 FR 23620
Final Rule (95-96 Season) Reg. Flex. & Reg. Impact Analysis	05/06/97	62 FR 24753
Final Rule Effective 04/30/97 Compensation for 1995-96 Crop Season	05/06/97	62 FR 24746
NPRM Comments Due 09/09/97 Compensation for 1996-97 Crop Season	07/11/97	62 FR 37159
NPRM Compensation, Wheat/Seed/Straw 95-96 Season	07/30/97	62 FR 40756
NPRM Comment Period End	08/29/97	
Final Rule, Wheat/Seed/Straw 95-96 Season; Effective 12/23/97	01/09/98	63 FR 1321
NPRM Movement from Regulated Areas NPRM Comments Due 03/30/98	01/28/98	63 FR 4198
Final Rule 96-97 Season	06/00/98	
Final Rule Movement from Regulated Areas	09/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses**Government Levels Affected:** State

Agency Contact: Mike Stefan, Operations Officer, Domestic and Emergency Operations, PPQ, Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, 4700 River Road, Unit 134, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236
Phone: 301 734-8247
Email: mstefan@aphis.usda.gov

RIN: 0579-AA83

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Long-Term Actions

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

108. IMPORTATION OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 319.56**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined**Government Levels Affected:** Undetermined**Agency Contact:** Jane Levy
Phone: 301 734-8259**RIN:** 0579-AA58**109. IMPORTATION OF CERTAIN EMBRYOS AND ANIMAL SEMEN****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 98**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	07/08/93	58 FR 36625
ANPRM Comment	09/07/93	
Period End		
NPRM	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined**Government Levels Affected:** Undetermined**Agency Contact:** Dr. Roger Perkins
Phone: 301 734-8170**RIN:** 0579-AA63**110. HSTAIC REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE FEES****Priority:** Other Significant**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 92.430; 9 CFR 92.522**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined**Government Levels Affected:** Undetermined**Agency Contact:** Joan Montgomery
Phone: 301 734-8172**RIN:** 0579-AA69**111. • KARNAL BUNT STATUS OF THE MEXICALI VALLEY OF MEXICO****Priority:** Other Significant**Legal Authority:** 7 USC 150dd to 150ff; 7 USC 151 to 167; 7 USC 450; 7 USC 2803; 7 USC 2809; 21 USC 136 to 136a**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 319**Legal Deadline:** None**Abstract:** APHIS is proposing to amend its wheat diseases regulations by recognizing a wheat-growing area within the Mexicali Valley of Mexico as being free from the wheat disease Karnal bunt. Surveys conducted by Mexican plant health authorities in that area of the Mexicali Valley since 1990 have shown the area to be free from Karnal bunt, and Mexican authorities are enforcing restrictions designed to protect the area from the introduction of Karnal bunt. This proposed change would have the effect of removing certain restrictions on the importation into the United States of wheat seed, straw, and other wheat products from the Karnal bunt-free area of the Mexicali Valley.**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	01/27/98	63 FR 3844
NPRM Comment	03/30/98	
Period End		
Interim Final Rule	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** James A. Petit de Mange, Import Specialist, PPQ, Phytosanitary Issues Management Team, Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, 4700 River Road Unit 140, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236
Phone: 301 734-6799
Fax: 301 734-5786
Email: jpdmanage@aphis.usda.gov**RIN:** 0579-AA88**112. • INTERSTATE MOVEMENT OF SHEEP AND GOATS FROM STATES THAT DO NOT QUARANTINE SCRAPIE-INFECTED AND SOURCE FLOCKS****Priority:** Other Significant**Legal Authority:** 21 USC 111 to 114; 21 USC 114a; 21 USC 115; 21 USC 117; 21 USC 120 to 121; 21 USC 123 to 126; 21 USC 134a to 134h**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 54; 9 CFR 79**Legal Deadline:** None**Abstract:** We are soliciting public comment to help us develop options for potential changes to our regulations for the interstate movement of sheep and goats. We believe changes may be necessary to improve control and limit the spread of scrapie, a serious disease of sheep and goats. After evaluating public comment on the issues presented in this notice, we will determine whether proposing changes to our regulations is necessary.**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	01/26/98	63 FR 3671
ANPRM Comment	03/27/98	
Period End		
NPRM	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined**Government Levels Affected:** Undetermined**Agency Contact:** Dr. Joseph Van Tiem, Senior Staff Veterinarian, VS, National Animal Health Programs, Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231
Phone: 301 734-7716**RIN:** 0579-AA90**113. • IMPORTATION OF PORK FROM YUCATAN, MEXICO****Priority:** Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.**Legal Authority:** 7 USC 147a; 7 USC 150cc; 7 USC 161 to 162; 7 USC 450; 19 USC 1306; 21 USC 111; 21 USC 114a; 21 USC 134a to 134c; 21 USC 134f; 21 USC 136 to 136a; 31 USC 9701; 42 USC 4331 to 4332**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 94**Legal Deadline:** None**Abstract:** We are proposing to amend the regulations concerning the importation of animal products to allow, under certain conditions, the importation of fresh pork for human consumption from the Mexican State of Yucatan. This change would remove unnecessary restrictions on the importation of fresh pork from Yucatan, Mexico, into the United States. We are also proposing to amend the conditions under which fresh pork for human consumption may be imported from Sonora, Mexico, and to allow fresh pork from Yucatan to be imported under those same conditions.

USDA—APHIS

Long-Term Actions

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

Government Levels Affected:
Undetermined

Agency Contact: Dr. John Cougill,
Senior Staff Veterinarian, VS, National
Center for Import and Export,
Department of Agriculture, Animal and
Plant Health Inspection Service, 4700
River Road Unit 40, Riverdale, MD
20737-1231
Phone: 301 734-3399
Email: jcougill@aphis.usda.gov

RIN: 0579-AA91

114. • IMPORTATION OF FUJI APPLES FROM THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Priority: Other Significant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 150dd to 150ff;
7 USC 151 to 167; 7 USC 450; 7 USC
2803; 7 USC 2809; 21 USC 136 to 136a

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 319

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: We are proposing to revise the regulations that allow Fuji variety apples to be imported into the United States. The proposal would add an option to import Fuji variety apples from the Republic of Korea under a systems approach, including strict cultural control conditions, that would allow the importation of Fuji variety apples from certified orchards. This proposed change is in response to a request from the Republic of Korea. We reviewed scientific studies and data on the Republic of Korea's pest

management practices in export orchards and believe that the conditions to which the importation of Fuji variety apples from the Republic of Korea would be subject would reduce the risk of pest introduction to an insignificant level.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Peter Grosser, Senior
Staff Officer, PPQ, Port Operations and
Compliance, Department of Agriculture,
Animal and Plant Health Inspection
Service, 4700 River Road Unit 140,
Riverdale, MD 20737-1236
Phone: 301 734-6799
Email: pgrosser@aphis.usda.gov

RIN: 0579-AA93

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Completed Actions

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

115. IMPORTATION OF ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

Priority: Economically Significant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 92; 9 CFR 93; 9 CFR 94; 9 CFR 95; 9 CFR 96; 9 CFR 98

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	10/28/97	62 FR 56000
Final Action Effective	11/28/97	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Dr. Gary Colgrove
Phone: 301 734-8590
Fax: 301 734-3222

RIN: 0579-AA71

116. HUMANE TREATMENT OF DOGS AND CATS; TETHERING AND TEMPERATURE REQUIREMENTS

Priority: Other Significant

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 1; 9 CFR 3

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action for Humane Treatment of Dogs and Cats; Temperature Reqs.	03/04/98	63 FR 10493
Final Action Effective	04/13/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Mr. Stephen Smith
Phone: 301 734-4972
Email: snssmith@aphis.usda.gov

RIN: 0579-AA74

117. HUMANE TREATMENT OF DOGS AND CATS; WIRE FLOORING

Priority: Other Significant

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 3

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	01/21/98	63 FR 3017
Final Action Effective	02/20/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Stephen Smith
Phone: 301 734-4972
Email: snssmith@aphis.usda.gov

RIN: 0579-AA78

118. HUMANE TREATMENT OF DOGS AND CATS; LICENSING AND CONSIGNMENT REQUIREMENTS

Priority: Other Significant

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 2; 9 CFR 3

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Withdrawn - The agency has decided that this action is not necessary	02/18/98	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Stephen Smith
Phone: 301 734-4972
Email: snssmith@aphis.usda.gov

RIN: 0579-AA79

119. INTERSTATE MOVEMENTS OF IMPORTED PLANTS AND PLANT PARTS

Priority: Other Significant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will eliminate existing text in the CFR.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 301

USDA—APHIS

Completed Actions

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	11/17/97	62 FR 61210
Final Action Effective	12/17/97	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** Stephen Poe
Phone: 301 734-8899**RIN:** 0579-AA85**120. GARBAGE; INSPECTION AT AIRPORTS****Priority:** Info./Admin./Other**Unfunded Mandates:** Undetermined**Major:** Undetermined**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 94; 7 CFR 330**Completed:**

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Withdrawn - The agency has decided that this action is not necessary	12/03/97	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** Dr. Ronald B. Caffey
Phone: 301 734-7633**RIN:** 0579-AA86**121. • ANIMAL WELFARE; REGULATIONS OF POCKET PETS****Priority:** Other Significant**Legal Authority:** 7 USC 2131 to 2159**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 1 to 3**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: This document gives notice that USDA-APHIS is now regulating under the Animal Welfare Act the handling, care, and treatment at retail pet stores of small mammals commonly referred to as "pocket pets" and is requiring any retail pet store that sells pocket pets to be licensed as a dealer under the Animal Welfare Act. This action is necessary because the Animal Welfare Act regulations require

regulation of all persons who sell exotic or wild animals for research, exhibition, or for use as a pet, and USDA-APHIS considers pocket pets to be exotic or wild animals for this purpose.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	01/21/98	63 FR 3017

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** Bettye K. Walters, Staff Veterinarian, Animal Care, Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, 4700 River Road, Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737-1234

Phone: 301 734-7833

Email: bwalters@aphis.usda.gov

RIN: 0579-AA89**BILLING CODE** 3410-34-F

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Proposed Rule Stage

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES)

122. AGRICULTURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Legal Authority:** 7 USC 3318**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 3417**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: We propose to establish Administrative Provisions for the Agricultural Telecommunications Program to institute procedures to be followed in preparing proposals, to outline requirements which grant recipients must meet, to provide instructions on how to apply for a grant, and to provide general information about post-award administration of grants under the program.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	08/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** Phillip A. Carter, Policy Advisor, Policy & Program

Liaison Staff, Department of Agriculture, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., STOP 2299, Washington, DC 20250-2299

Phone: 202 720-9181

Fax: 202 401-7752

Email: pcarter@reeusda.gov

RIN: 0524-AA12**123. HISPANIC EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROGRAM; ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Legal Authority:** 7 USC 3241**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 3412**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: Regulation will establish the procedures to be followed annually in the solicitation of proposals, the evaluation of such proposals, and the award of project grants under the Hispanic Education Partnership Grants Program.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/00/98	

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM Comment Period End	08/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** Phillip A. Carter, Policy Advisor, Policy & Program Liaison Staff, Department of Agriculture, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., STOP 2299, Washington, DC 20250-2299

Phone: 202 720-9181

Fax: 202 401-7752

Email: pcarter@reeusda.gov

RIN: 0524-AA17**124. COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECTS ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Legal Authority:** 7 USC 2034**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 3416**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: This regulation proposes to establish Administrative Provisions for the Community Food Projects to institute procedures to be followed in

USDA—CSREES

Proposed Rule Stage

preparing proposals, to outline requirements which grant recipients must meet, to provide instructions on how to apply for a grant, and to provide general information about post-award administration of grants under the program.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	08/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Phillip Carter, Policy and Program Liaison Staff, Office of Extramural Programs, Department of Agriculture, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., STOP 2299, Washington DC. 20250-2299

Phone: 202 720-9181

Fax: 202 401-7752

Email: pcarter@reeusda.gov

RIN: 0524-AA19

125. • SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH PROGRAM ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Legal Authority: 15 USC 638

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 3403

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (CSREES) proposes to modify the Small Business Innovation Research Program Administrative Provisions to modify the language of when a Phase I awardee is eligible to apply for a Phase II award. Currently a Phase I

awardee may apply for a Phase II award in the next fiscal year funding cycle or the second fiscal year funding cycle. CSREES intends to revise this language to allow Phase I awardees to apply in either of the two fiscal years following the end of the initial project period; this does not include any no-cost extensions of time. This revision will allow an eighteen-month Phase I awardee the same privileges as that of a six-month Phase I awardee. Privileges as used herein refers to the opportunity for a no-cost extension of time, if necessary, and two options of when a Phase I awardee may apply for a Phase II award.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	07/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Phillip Carter, Policy Advisor, Policy & Program Liaison Staff, Department of Agriculture, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service
Phone: 202 720-9181
Fax: 202 401-7752
Email: pcarter@reeusda.gov

RIN: 0524-AA20

126. • BIOTECHNOLOGY RISK ASSESSMENT RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 5921; 5 USC 301

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 3415

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Cooperative State Research Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) proposes to revise and modify the Biotechnology Risk Assessment Research Grants Program Administrative Provisions. The revision and modification updates 7 CFR part 3415 to delete references to the Office of Agricultural Biotechnology and the Agricultural Biotechnology Research Advisory Committee clarifying the requirements for the pre-proposals, clarify what is to be included in the 15 page limit on proposals and revise the language regarding conflicts of interests (3415.12).

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	07/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Phillip Carter, Policy Advisor, Policy and Program Liaison Staff, Department of Agriculture, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service
Phone: 202 720-9181
Fax: 202 401-7752
Email: pcarter@reeusda.gov

RIN: 0524-AA21

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Long-Term Actions

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES)

127. HIGHER EDUCATION MULTICULTURAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM; ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 3409

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Phillip A. Carter
Phone: 202 720-9181
Fax: 202 401-7752
Email: pcarter@reeusda.gov

RIN: 0524-AA09

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Completed Actions

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES)

128. HIGHER EDUCATION

CHALLENGE GRANTS PROGRAM;
ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 3405

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	07/22/97	62 FR 39316
Final Action Effective	07/22/97	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Phillip A. Carter

Phone: 202 720-9181

Fax: 202 401-7752

Email: pcarter@reeusda.gov

RIN: 0524-AA02

129. 1890 INSTITUTION CAPACITY
BUILDING GRANTS PROGRAM;
ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 3406

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	07/22/97	62 FR 39330
Final Action Effective	07/22/97	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Phillip A. Carter

Phone: 202 720-9181

Fax: 202 401-7752

Email: pcarter@reeusda.gov

RIN: 0524-AA03

BILLING CODE 3410-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Proposed Rule Stage

Rural Housing Service (RHS)

130. CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE
REQUIREMENTS—1901-E TO 1940-D

Priority: Other Significant

Legal Authority: PL 100-259; PL 88-352; 42 USC 2000d et seq; PL 90-284; 42 USC 3601 to 3619; PL 100-430; PL 92-318; 20 USC 1681 et seq; PL 93-112; 29 USC 794; PL 94-135; 42 USC 6101 et seq; PL 94-239; 15 USC 1601 et seq; EO 11246

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 15; 12 CFR 202; 28 CFR 42; 45 CFR 90; 41 CFR 60 to 64; 24 CFR 14; 7 CFR 1940 subpart D; 7 CFR 1901 subpart E

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: Will effectuate a comprehensive civil rights regulation implementing the following laws: The Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA); title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended by the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 (The Fair Housing Act); the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and programs and activities; Amendments of 1972; and Executive Order 11246. The revised regulations will provide detailed guidelines for field offices for improved enforcement and compliance with these laws which heavily impact the Agency's programs. Mechanisms for monitoring compliance by field offices and recipients of financial assistance at all levels will decrease the Agency's vulnerability due to noncompliance with recently enacted Civil Rights legislation.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/00/98	

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM Comment Period End	07/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

Government Levels Affected: Undetermined

Procurement: This is a procurement-related action for which there is no statutory requirement. There is a paperwork burden associated with this action.

Agency Contact: Carlton L. Lewis, Chief, Program Compliance Branch, Department of Agriculture, Rural Housing Service, Stop 0703, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250

Phone: 202 690-9810

TDD: 202 690-9809

Fax: 202 690-9803

RIN: 0575-AA83

131. DIRECT SINGLE-FAMILY
HOUSING LOANS AND GRANTS

Priority: Other Significant

Legal Authority: 42 USC 1472

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1924 subpart A; 7 CFR 1944 subpart E; 7 CFR 1980 subpart D; 7 CFR 3550 subpart B

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Agency is changing the thermal requirements for manufactured housing. Manufactured homes are no longer required to meet the RHS's thermal requirements. The recent HUD increase in the thermal requirements of the building envelope for manufactured home is substantial. The thermal performance of a unit built to the requirements is comparable to the

thermal performance of a unit built to the requirements of RHS climatic zones.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	06/00/98	
Final Action	10/00/98	
Final Action Effective	11/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Sam Hodges, III, Architect, Program Support Staff, Department of Agriculture, Rural Housing Service, Stop 0761, Rm. 6309 South Building, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250

Phone: 202 720-9653

Fax: 202 690-4335

RIN: 0575-AC11

132. MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING
REINVENTION

Priority: Other Significant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will eliminate existing text in the CFR.

Legal Authority: 5 USC 301; 7 USC 1989; 42 USC 1475; 42 USC 1479; 42 USC 1480; 42 USC 1481; 42 USC 1484; 42 USC 1485; 42 USC 1486; 42 USC 1490a

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1806 subpart A; 7 CFR 1930 subpart C; 7 CFR 1944 subpart D; 7 CFR 1944 subpart E; 7 CFR 1951 subpart C; 7 CFR 1951 subpart D; 7 CFR 1951 subpart K; 7 CFR 1951 subpart N; 7 CFR 1955

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Proposed Rule Stage

subpart A; 7 CFR 1955 subpart B; 7 CFR 1955 subpart C; 7 CFR 1956 subpart B; 7 CFR 1965 subpart B; 7 CFR 1965 subpart E

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: Reinvention of the Rural Housing Service's Multi-Family Housing Programs will consolidate regulations pertaining to section 515 Rural Rental Housing, section 514 Farm Labor Housing Loans, section 516 Farm Labor Housing Grants and section 521 Rental Assistance Payments. Fourteen published regulations will be reduced to one regulation and handbooks for program administration. This will simplify loan origination and portfolio management for applicants, borrowers and housing operators as well as Rural Development field staff. This will also provide flexibility for program modifications to reflect current and foreseeable changes. It will also reduce regulations that address solely internal agency program administration. Finally, the regulation will be more customer friendly and responsive to the needs of the public.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	08/00/98	
Final Action	11/00/98	
Final Action Effective	12/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: John Pentecost, Deputy Division Director, Multi-Family Housing Processing Div., Department of Agriculture, Rural Housing Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202 720-1604
Fax: 202 690-3444

RIN: 0575-AC13

133. COMMUNITY FACILITY LOANS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Legal Authority: 5 USC 301; 7 USC 1989; 16 USC 1005

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1942

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The regulation will be revised to incorporate the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 for Community Facilities Loans and Grants. We will incorporate new requirements in RD Instruction 1942-A, Section 1942.17(q) will be revised to refer to 7 CFR part 3052 for audit requirements.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Sharon Douglas, Loan Specialist, Community Programs Division, Department of Agriculture, Rural Housing Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., STOP 3222, Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202 720-1506
TDD: 202 690-0471

RIN: 0575-AC16

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Final Rule Stage

Rural Housing Service (RHS)

134. DENYING CREDIT TO APPLICANTS DELINQUENT ON ANY FEDERAL DEBT

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 1989; 42 USC 1480; 5 USC 301

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1942 subpart C; 7 CFR 1944 subpart E; 7 CFR 1948 subpart B; 7 CFR 1951 subpart E; 7 CFR 1942 subpart A; 7 CFR 1942 subpart G; 7 CFR 1944 subpart D; 7 CFR 1948 subpart C; 7 CFR 1980 subpart E; 7 CFR 1980 subpart I

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: OMB Circular A-129 dated November 25, 1988, recommends that the processing of applications for Federal direct loans be suspended and requires private lenders to suspend processing of loan guarantee applications when an applicant is found to be delinquent on a Federal debt. The Federal Debt Collections Procedures Act of 1990 also requires that credit be denied if an outstanding judgment lien obtained by the United States in a Federal Court (other than

the United States Tax Court), which has been recorded, is found.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/04/94	59 FR 23018
NPRM Comment Period End	07/05/94	
Final Action	04/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses, Organizations

Government Levels Affected: Local, Tribal, Federal

Agency Contact: Sherie Hinton Henry, Director, Financial Management Division, Department of Agriculture, Rural Housing Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Stop 0707, Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202 690-0300
Fax: 202 720-5184

RIN: 0575-AA66

135. REENGINEERING AND REINVENTION OF THE DIRECT SECTION 502 AND 504 SINGLE FAMILY HOUSING PROGRAM

Priority: Other Significant. Major under 5 USC 801.

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 5 USC 301; 7 USC 1989; 42 USC 1480; 31 USC 3700

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1806; 7 CFR 1900; 7 CFR 1944; 7 CFR 1951; 7 CFR 1955; 7 CFR 1956; 7 CFR 1965; 7 CFR 3550

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: Rural Housing Service (RHS) has purchased a state-of-the-art dedicated loan origination servicing system (DLOSS) which includes escrow capability. To conform to this new system, RHS proposes to make further amendments to the regulations to allow the agency to provide escrow services to Single Family Housing borrowers which follow industry standards. In

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Final Rule Stage

addition, the agency proposes to amend its regulations to conform to processes and techniques currently utilized by the private sector.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/08/96	61 FR 15395
NPRM Comment Period End	06/07/96	
Interim Final Rule	11/22/96	61 FR 59762
Final Action	11/00/98	
Final Action Effective	12/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Procurement: This is a procurement-related action for which there is no statutory requirement. There is no paperwork burden associated with this action.

Agency Contact: Betsy Fletcher, Senior Loan Specialist, Single Family Housing, Department of Agriculture, Rural Housing Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., STOP 0783, Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202 720-1486

RIN: 0575-AB99

136. COMMUNITY FACILITY GRANTS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 1989; 16 USC 1005; 5 USC 301

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 3570 subpart B

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Agency is establishing a new grant program for community facilities. Grant purposes are the same as the Community Facilities direct and guaranteed programs.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	04/07/97	62 FR 16465
Final Action	04/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Jennifer Barton, Loan Specialist, Community Programs Division, Department of Agriculture, Rural Housing Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Stop 3222, Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202 720-1504

RIN: 0575-AC10

137. SERVICING COMMUNITY PROGRAMS LOANS AND GRANTS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 5 USC 301; 7 USC 1989; 31 USC 3711; 42 USC 1480

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 3570 subpart D; 7 CFR 1951 subpart E; 7 CFR 1951 subpart O; 7 CFR 1955 subpart A; 7 CFR 1955 subpart B; 7 CFR 1955 subpart C; 7 CFR 1956 subpart C; 7 CFR 1951 subpart F

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Agency is combining seven regulations affecting the servicing of Community Program loans and grants into one regulation. Justification: This is part of the Reinventing Government Initiative. There are no policy or procedural changes. The published regulation will be simplified by removing the administrative portion and will only contain the information affecting the public. Agency field staff will receive an instruction which will include the administrative portion and the published regulations.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	09/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Beth Jones, Loan Specialist, Community Programs Division, Department of Agriculture, Rural Housing Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., STOP 3222, Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202 720-1498
Fax: 202 690-0471

RIN: 0575-AC12

138. SECTION 538 GUARANTEE RURAL RENTAL HOUSING PROGRAM

Priority: Other Significant

Legal Authority: 42 USC 1490p-2; 5 USC 301; 7 USC 1

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 3565

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: Implement the Rural Rental Housing Guarantee Loan Program authorized by section 538 of the

Housing Act of 1949 as amended. This program will serve moderate income rural families with incomes up to 115 percent of area median. This will increase the stock and affordable decent safe and sanitary housing for such families and individuals at reduced cost to the Government. Where current direct lending costs \$50 per \$100 lent, the guarantee program will cost approximately \$4 per \$100 guaranteed.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	05/00/98	
Final Action	01/00/99	
Final Action Effective	02/00/99	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Carl Wagner, Senior Loan Officer, Multi-Family Housing Processing Div., Department of Agriculture, Rural Housing Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202 720-1604
Fax: 202 690-3444
Email: cwagner@usda.gov

RIN: 0575-AC14

139. • COMMUNITY PROGRAMS GUARANTEED LOANS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 7 USC 1989; 42 USC 1480; 5 USC 301

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1980 subpart I

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: To amend subject Regulation to provide more comprehensive guidance to lenders, borrowers and Agency staff. These changes will better organize the Regulation and make the program more accessible to Rural Lenders. Finally these changes will reflect our new Agency structure under USDA's Reorganization.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	10/07/97	62 FR 52277
NPRM Comment Period End	12/08/97	
Final Action	12/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

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Final Rule Stage

Government Levels Affected: None
Agency Contact: Mel Padgett, Senior
 Loan Specialist, Community Programs

Division, Department of Agriculture,
 Rural Housing Service, 1400
 Independence Ave. SW., Stop 3222,
 Washington, DC 20250

Phone: 202 720-1495
 Fax: 202 690-0471
RIN: 0575-AC17

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
Rural Housing Service (RHS)

Long-Term Actions

**140. ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM
 STREAMLINE ENVIRONMENTAL
 PROCESS**

Priority: Other Significant

Reinventing Government: This
 rulemaking is part of the Reinventing
 Government effort. It will revise text in
 the CFR to reduce burden or
 duplication, or streamline
 requirements.

CFR Citation: 40 CFR 300; 40 CFR 260;
 40 CFR 700; 40 CFR 400; 7 CFR 1940

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Susan Wieferich
 Phone: 202 720-9647

RIN: 0575-AB98

**141. NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE
 REGULATIONS**

Priority: Other Significant

Reinventing Government: This
 rulemaking is part of the Reinventing
 Government effort. It will revise text in
 the CFR to reduce burden or
 duplication, or streamline
 requirements.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1926 subpart B;
 7 CFR 1806 subpart B

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses,
 Governmental Jurisdictions,
 Organizations

Government Levels Affected: State,
 Local, Tribal, Federal

Agency Contact: Don Lander
 Phone: 202 720-9656

RIN: 0575-AC07

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
Rural Housing Service (RHS)

Completed Actions

**142. COMMUNITY PROGRAMS
 GUARANTEED LOANS**

Priority: Other Significant

Reinventing Government: This
 rulemaking is part of the Reinventing
 Government effort. It will revise text in
 the CFR to reduce burden or
 duplication, or streamline
 requirements.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1980 subpart I

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Incorporated Into RIN 0575-AC17	11/01/97	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Melvin Padgett
 Phone: 202 720-1495

RIN: 0575-AB48

Government effort. It will revise text in
 the CFR to reduce burden or
 duplication, or streamline
 requirements.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1944 subpart E

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Incorporated Comments Into RIN 0575-AC13	02/01/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses,
 Organizations

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Obediah G. Baker, Jr.
 Phone: 202 720-1604

RIN: 0575-AB93

**144. PROVIDE INFORMATION
 REGARDING LEASE WRITE-OFF AND
 ANNUAL LEASE STATEMENTS**

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1955 subpart B

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Withdrawn - Revision No Longer Necessary	02/11/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Kristine Kenniston
 Phone: 314 539-2261
 Fax: 314 539-2764

RIN: 0575-AC01

**145. ACCESSIBILITY OF EXISTING
 MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING
 COMPLEXES**

Priority: Other Significant

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1924 subpart A;
 7 CFR 1944 subpart E; 7 CFR 1965
 subpart B

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Withdrawn - Project Dropped	02/11/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Larry Fleming
 Phone: 202 720-8547

RIN: 0575-AC08

**143. RURAL RENTAL AND RURAL
 COOPERATIVE HOUSING LOAN
 POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND
 AUTHORIZATIONS**

Priority: Other Significant

Reinventing Government: This
 rulemaking is part of the Reinventing

USDA—RHS

Completed Actions

146. SECTION 515 REFORM REGULATIONS**Priority:** Other Significant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1930 subpart C; 7 CFR 1944 subpart D; 7 CFR 1944 subpart E; 7 CFR 1951 subpart K; 7

CFR 1965 subpart B; 7 CFR 1965 subpart E

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	12/23/97	62 FR 67216
Final Action Effective	01/22/98	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** Linda Armour
Phone: 202 720-1604
Fax: 202 690-3444**RIN:** 0575-AC15**BILLING CODE** 3410-07-F**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC)**

Proposed Rule Stage

147. GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS; HIGH RISK LAND REGULATIONS**Priority:** Other Significant**Legal Authority:** 7 USC 1506(l)**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 400**Legal Deadline:** None**Abstract:** The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation adds new regulations to be known as High Risk Land Regulations. The intended effect of this rule is to set forth rates apart from those prescribed by standard actuarial tables and coverage procedures for acreage on which actual or expected frequency and severity of loss does not reasonably conform to standard insurance coverage and rating determination methods.**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	07/00/98	
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** Kenneth D. Ackerman, Manager, Department of Agriculture, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, MS 0525, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-0525
Phone: 202 690-2803
Fax: 202 690-2818
RIN: 0563-AA98

Administrative Regulations by revising the "Collection of Information and Data (Privacy Act)" statement found on the general crop insurance application. The proposed amendments to the statement include defining "substantial beneficial interest" as those persons whose interest in the policyholder is in excess of 10 percent. Other minor changes have been made to more fully comply with provisions of the Privacy Act.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	07/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** Kenneth D. Ackerman, Manager, Department of Agriculture, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, MS 0525, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-0525
Phone: 202 690-2803
Fax: 202 690-2818**RIN:** 0563-AB00

amount of production to count for cotton and ELS cotton that is eligible for quality adjustment. FCIC also proposes that the prevented planting coverage level of 45 percent contained in the current Cotton and ELS Cotton Crop Provisions be retained for the 1999 and succeeding crop years. The intended effect of this action is to evaluate the need for and provide policy changes to better meet the needs of the insured.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** Diana Moslak, Regulatory Review Officer, Department of Agriculture, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-0801
Phone: 202 720-2832
Fax: 202 690-5879**RIN:** 0563-AB62**148. GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS; SUBPART D; APPLICATION FOR CROP INSURANCE****Priority:** Other Significant**Legal Authority:** 7 USC 1506(l)**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 400**Legal Deadline:** None**Abstract:** The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation amends the General**149. • COMMON CROP INSURANCE REGULATIONS; COTTON AND ELS COTTON CROP INSURANCE PROVISIONS****Priority:** Other Significant**Legal Authority:** 7 USC 1506(l); 7 USC 1506(p)**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 457.104; 7 CFR 457.105**Legal Deadline:** None**Abstract:** The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation proposes to amend the Cotton Crop Insurance Provisions and the Extra Long Staple (ELS) Cotton Crop Insurance Provisions to: 1) provide a replant payment if the insured crop is damaged by excess moisture or hail and 2) revise the provision used to determine the**150. • COMMON CROP INSURANCE REGULATIONS; SMALL GRAINS CROP INSURANCE PROVISIONS AND WHEAT WINTER COVERAGE ENDORSEMENT****Priority:** Other Significant**Legal Authority:** 7 USC 1506(l); 7 USC 1506(p)**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 457.101; 7 CFR 457.102**Legal Deadline:** None**Abstract:** The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation proposes to revise and clarify existing policy provisions, establish winter wheat coverage in certain South Dakota and Wisconsin counties, reduce coverage under Option B of the Wheat Winter Coverage Endorsement, and to require insurance

USDA—FCIC

Proposed Rule Stage

on spring wheat planted to replace damaged winter wheat covered under the Wheat Winter Coverage Endorsement.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Diana Moslak, Regulatory Review Officer, Department of Agriculture, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-0801
Phone: 202 720-2832
Fax: 202 690-5879

RIN: 0563-AB63

151. • COMMON CROP INSURANCE REGULATIONS; COARSE GRAINS CROP INSURANCE PROVISIONS

Priority: Other Significant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 1506(l); 7 USC 1506(p)

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 457.113

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation proposes to make changes to the Coarse Grains Crop Insurance Provisions for corn, grain sorghum and

soybeans for the 2000 crop year specific to the way corn grain versus corn silage is insured and to clarify the insurability of specialty corn and soybeans.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	08/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Diana Moslak, Regulatory Review Officer, Department of Agriculture, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-0801
Phone: 202 720-2832
Fax: 202 690-5879

RIN: 0563-AB64

152. • GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS; NONSTANDARD UNDERWRITING CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

Priority: Other Significant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 1506(l); 7 USC 1506(p)

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 400

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: ANPRM to seek public comments on the Nonstandard Classification System (NCS), which is

administered by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) in conjunction with the Federal crop insurance program. The NCS program compares an individual producer's crop loss history with the losses for the producer's county. If the producer exceeds the level of loss frequency and severity set by FCIC, the producer's rates and coverages are adjusted to bring the policy into line with FCIC's statutory mandate to implement an actuarially sound crop insurance program.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	09/17/97	62 FR 48798
ANPRM Comment Period End	10/17/97	
NPRM	07/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Diana Moslak, Regulatory Review Officer, Department of Agriculture, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-0801
Phone: 202 720-2832
Fax: 202 690-5879

RIN: 0563-AB66

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Final Rule Stage

Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC)

153. COMMON CROP INSURANCE REGULATIONS; TOBACCO (GUARANTEED PLAN) CROP INSURANCE PROVISIONS

Priority: Routine and Frequent

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 7 USC 1506(l)

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 401.129

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This regulation proposes to remove the Tobacco (Guaranteed Plan) Endorsement from part 401; General Crop Insurance Regulations and add it to part 457; Common Crop Insurance Regulations. The Tobacco (Guaranteed Plan) endorsement under part 457 will

contain late and prevented planting provisions.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/16/97	62 FR 32544
NPRM Comment Period End	07/16/97	
Final Action	08/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Kenneth D. Ackerman, Manager, Department of Agriculture, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, MS 0525, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-0525
Phone: 202 690-2803
Fax: 202 690-2818

RIN: 0563-AA84

154. COMMON CROP INSURANCE REGULATIONS; PEANUT CROP INSURANCE PROVISIONS

Priority: Routine and Frequent

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 7 USC 1506(l)

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 457

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation hereby proposes regulations for provisions to insure peanuts. The provisions will be used in conjunction with the common crop insurance policy which contains standard terms and conditions common to most crops. The intended effect of this action is to provide automatic

USDA—FCIC

Final Rule Stage

coverage for late and prevented planting as well as make other minor policy changes to better meet the needs of the insured. This rule proposes to remove the peanut endorsements which are currently a "stand-alone" policy located in part 425 and part 401.141 of the General Crop Insurance provisions and move them under part 457, Common Crop Insurance provisions.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/01/97	62 FR 23685
NPRM Comment Period End	06/02/97	
Final Action	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Kenneth D. Ackerman, Manager, Department of Agriculture, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, MS 0525, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-0525
Phone: 202 690-2803
Fax: 202 690-2818

RIN: 0563-AA85

155. GROUP RISK PLAN CROP INSURANCE PROVISIONS; PART 407

Priority: Other Significant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 1506(l)

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 407

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) hereby proposes to issue provisions which will outline a new risk management tool to be known as the Group Risk Plan of Insurance (GRP). This plan will insure against the widespread loss of production of certain crops in a county and is intended primarily for use by those farmers whose yields tend to follow the county average yield. GRP pays only when the average yield of the entire county drops below the expected county yield for the insured crop set by the FCIC. Payment is based on the percentage of county or area wide loss below the insured's trigger yield. Specific GRP Crop Insurance Provisions will be proposed for cotton, wheat, barley, corn, grain, sorghum, soybeans, forage production, and peanuts.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	10/08/96	61 FR 52717
Final Action	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Kenneth D. Ackerman, Manager, Department of Agriculture, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, MS 0525, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-0525
Phone: 202 690-2803
Fax: 202 690-2818

RIN: 0563-AB06

156. GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS; SUBPART S; REGULATIONS FOR INSURANCE COVERAGE BY WRITTEN AGREEMENT

Priority: Other Significant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 1506(l)

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 400

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) hereby proposes regulations to allow insurance coverage by written agreement for crops in counties which have no actuarial table. Currently, FCIC provides insurance by written agreement for only program crops. By providing insurance by written agreement, FCIC will provide a risk management tool to a broader base of producers.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/20/97	62 FR 33575
NPRM Comment Period End	08/19/97	
Final Action	07/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Kenneth D. Ackerman, Manager, Department of Agriculture, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, MS 0525, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-0525
Phone: 202 690-2803
Fax: 202 690-2818

RIN: 0563-AB07

157. GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS; SUBPART V; SUBMISSION OF POLICIES AND PROVISIONS OF POLICIES AND RATES OF PREMIUM

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 1506(l)

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 400

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This rule proposes to add a new subpart to the General Administrative Regulations which will provide guidelines for FCIC approval of supplemental and alternative crop insurance policies and policy provisions developed by FCIC approved insurance providers.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	09/11/97	62 FR 47772
NPRM Comment Period End	11/10/97	
Final Action	07/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Kenneth D. Ackerman, Manager, Department of Agriculture, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, MS 0525, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-0525
Phone: 202 690-2803
Fax: 202 690-2818

RIN: 0563-AB15

158. GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS; SUBPART J; APPEAL PROCEDURE REGULATIONS

Priority: Routine and Frequent

Legal Authority: 7 USC 1506(l)

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 400

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This proposed rule will amend FCIC appeal procedures by outlining provisions that producers must follow when appealing decisions which deny them program benefits or eligibility.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	12/29/95	60 FR 67298
Final Action	12/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Kenneth D. Ackerman, Manager, Department of

USDA—FCIC

Final Rule Stage

Agriculture, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, MS 0525, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-0525
Phone: 202 690-2803
Fax: 202 690-2818
RIN: 0563-AB17

159. GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS; SUBPART N; DISASTER ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1988

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 1506(l)

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 400

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This rule proposes to revise subpart N of the General Administrative Regulations by repealing obsolete disaster guidelines and requiring the mandatory purchase of catastrophic crop insurance for program crops as a prerequisite for obtaining benefits under any commodity price subpart, production adjustment, or conservation program administered by USDA, or any farmer loan program, whether these programs are administered by FCIC or CFSA.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	12/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Kenneth D. Ackerman, Manager, Department of Agriculture, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, MS 0525, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-0525
Phone: 202 690-2803
Fax: 202 690-2818

RIN: 0563-AB20

160. TOBACCO, QUOTA PLAN CROP INSURANCE REGULATIONS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 1506(l)

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 435

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation hereby proposes regulations for provisions to insure Tobacco, Quota Plan. The provisions will be used in conjunction with the common crop insurance policy which contains standard terms and conditions

common to most crops. This rule proposes to remove the Tobacco, Quota Plan, endorsement which is currently a "stand-alone" policy located in part 435 and move it under part 457, common crop insurance provisions.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/13/97	62 FR 26248
NPRM Comment Period End	06/12/97	
Final Action	07/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Kenneth D. Ackerman, Manager, Department of Agriculture, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, MS 0525, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-0525
Phone: 202 690-2803
Fax: 202 690-2818

RIN: 0563-AB47

161. POPCORN CORN INSURANCE REGULATIONS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 1506(l)

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 447

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation hereby proposes regulations for provisions to insure popcorn. The provisions will be used in conjunction with the common crop insurance policy which contains standard terms and conditions common to most crops. This rule proposes to remove the popcorn endorsement which is currently a "stand-alone" policy located in part 447 and move it under part 457, common crop insurance provisions.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/09/97	62 FR 17103
NPRM Comment Period End	05/09/97	
Final Action	07/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Kenneth D. Ackerman, Manager, Department of Agriculture, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, MS 0525, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-0525

Phone: 202 690-2803

Fax: 202 690-2818

RIN: 0563-AB48

162. FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE ON HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND AND WETLANDS—PART 400

Priority: Other Significant

Legal Authority: 16 USC 3811; 16 USC 3821

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 400.47

Legal Deadline: Final, Statutory, July 3, 1996.

Abstract: This action will implement requirements of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 to provide that producers will no longer be required to be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985 in order to be eligible to obtain crop insurance. No cost is expected.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	07/23/96	61 FR 38057
Final Action	12/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Kenneth D. Ackerman, Manager, Department of Agriculture, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, MS 0525, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-0525
Phone: 202 690-2803
Fax: 202 690-2818

RIN: 0563-AB59

163. FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE ON HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND AND WETLANDS—PART 401

Priority: Other Significant

Legal Authority: 16 USC 3811; 16 USC 3821

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 401.8

Legal Deadline: Final, Statutory, July 3, 1996.

Abstract: This action will implement requirements of the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 to provide that producers will no longer be required to be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of

USDA—FCIC

Final Rule Stage

1985 in order to be eligible to obtain crop insurance. No cost is expected.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	07/26/96	61 FR 39048
Final Action	12/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Kenneth D. Ackerman, Manager, Department of Agriculture, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, MS 0525, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-0525
Phone: 202 690-2803
Fax: 202 690-2818
RIN: 0563-AB60

164. • DAIRY OPTIONS PILOT PROGRAM

Priority: Other Significant

Legal Authority: FAIR Act of 1996, section 191, section 226 A(b)

CFR Citation: 7 CFR

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This action seeks comments on a new Dairy Options Pilot Program

(DOPP) to be funded by the Commodity Credit Corporation and administered by Risk Management Agency.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	01/02/98	63 FR 00051
ANPRM Comment Period End	02/02/98	
Final Action	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Diana Moslak, Regulatory Review Officer, Department of Agriculture, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-0801
Phone: 202 720-2832
Fax: 202 690-5879

RIN: 0563-AB61

165. • NURSERY CROP INSURANCE REGULATIONS; COMMON CROP INSURANCE REGULATIONS; AND NURSERY CROP INSURANCE PROVISIONS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 1506(l); 7 USC 1506(p)

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 457.114

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation proposes to revise and reissue the Nursery Crop Insurance Provisions. The intended effect of this action is to provide policy changes to better meet the needs of the insureds, and to restrict the effect of the Nursery Crop Insurance Regulations (7 CFR part 406) to the 1995 and prior crop years

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	01/29/98	63 FR 04399
NPRM Comment Period End	03/16/98	
Final Action	08/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Diana Moslak, Regulatory Review Officer, Department of Agriculture, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-0801
Phone: 202 720-2832
Fax: 202 690-5879

RIN: 0563-AB65

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Long-Term Actions

Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC)

166. COMMON CROP INSURANCE REGULATIONS; RICE, FIG, ALMOND, RAISIN, FORAGE PRODUCTION, HYBRID SORGHUM SEED, PEAR, APPLE, CANNING AND PROCESSING SWEET CORN, DOLLAR PLAN FRESH MARKET TOMATO

Priority: Routine and Frequent

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 457

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/15/95	60 FR 31375
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Kenneth D. Ackerman
Phone: 202 690-2803

Fax: 202 690-2818

RIN: 0563-AB03

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Completed Actions

Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC)

167. COMMON CROP INSURANCE REGULATIONS; NORTHERN POTATO CROP INSURANCE PROVISIONS

Priority: Routine and Frequent

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 457

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	12/12/97	62 FR 65321
Final Action Effective	12/12/97	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Kenneth D. Ackerman
Phone: 202 690-2803

Fax: 202 690-2818

RIN: 0563-AA89

168. COMMON CROP INSURANCE REGULATIONS; CANNING AND PROCESSING TOMATO CROP INSURANCE PROVISIONS

Priority: Routine and Frequent

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing

USDA—FCIC

Completed Actions

Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 457

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	10/20/97	62 FR 54339
Final Action Effective	11/19/97	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Kenneth D. Ackerman
Phone: 202 690-2803
Fax: 202 690-2818

RIN: 0563-AA94

169. 1996 CROP YEAR COFFEE CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR PUERTO RICO

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

CFR Citation: Not yet determined

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Withdrawn - Will Not Publish These Policies	02/06/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Kenneth D. Ackerman
Phone: 202 690-2803
Fax: 202 690-2818

RIN: 0563-AB33

170. 1996 CROP YEAR FRUIT TREES (AVOCADO, ORANGES, MANGO, CITRON, LEMON) INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR PUERTO RICO

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

CFR Citation: Not yet determined

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Withdrawn - Will not publish these policies	02/06/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Kenneth D. Ackerman
Phone: 202 690-2803
Fax: 202 690-2818

RIN: 0563-AB36

171. COMMON CROP INSURANCE REGULATIONS; SUNFLOWER SEED CROP INSURANCE PROVISIONS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 457.108

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	12/07/95	60 FR 62727

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Kenneth D. Ackerman
Phone: 202 690-2803
Fax: 202 690-2818

RIN: 0563-AB42

BILLING CODE 3410-08-F

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Proposed Rule Stage

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)

172. GRAIN INSPECTION GENERAL REGULATIONS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 7 USC 71

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 800.

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This proposal, a housekeeping-type rulemaking, is the result of GIPSA's review, under the NPR, of regulations contained in 7 CFR 800. These regulations relate to inspection of grain under the U.S. Grain Standards Act and consist of administrative direction on how the public can request service, how Federal, State or private laboratories must provide service and what fees are charged for the service. In determining what changes to propose in this section, GIPSA consulted users of the service on what changes they felt were needed in the regulations, discussed with legal counsel information required

to be in the regulations for enforcement purposes, and reviewed information taken from its day-to-day operations. These changes are being proposed to clarify the language and update the regulations to reflect current technology and operating practices.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	06/00/98	
Final Action	08/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: George W. Wollam, Regulatory Liaison, Department of Agriculture, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Room 0623 S. Bldg, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202 720-0292
Fax: 202 720-4628
Email: gwollam@fgisd.usda.gov

RIN: 0580-AA53

173. OFFICIAL/UNOFFICIAL WEIGHING SERVICES

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 71 et seq

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 800.76; 7 CFR 800.186; 7 CFR 800.195; 7 CFR 800.196

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: GIPSA proposes to amend portions of part 800, General Regulations under the U.S. Grain Standards Act, to allow official agencies to provide both official and unofficial weighing within their assigned area of responsibility but not at the same facility. This action will make official Class X and Class Y weighing services more readily available at a lower cost to the grain industry at non-export locations.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	03/30/98	63 FR 15104
NPRM Comment Period End	05/29/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

USDA—GIPSA

Proposed Rule Stage

Agency Contact: George Wollam, Regulatory Liaison, Department of Agriculture, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Room 0623 South, 1400 Independence Ave SW., Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202 720-0292
Fax: 202 720-4628
Email: gwollam@fgisdc.usda.gov
RIN: 0580-AA55

174. • REVIEW INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS

Priority: Other Significant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 71

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 800.125; 7 CFR 800.135

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: GIPSA is proposing to review regulations under the US Grain

Standards Act to allow interested persons to stipulate the quality factors that would be redetermined during a reinspection or appeal inspection for grade. Currently reinspections and appeal inspections for grade must include a review for all factors that (1) may determine the grade; (2) are reported on the original certificate; or (3) are required to be shown. GIPSA has determined that mandating all quality factors be reexamined during a review inspection is inefficient, time consuming and costly. Further, such a complete review of the preceding inspection service is usually not needed to confirm the true quality of the grain. This proposed action will allow interested parties to specify which official factors should be redetermined during the reinspection or appeal inspection service. However, to

safeguard against inadvertent misgrading, official personnel may determine other factors, when deemed necessary.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: George Wollam, Regulatory Liaison, Department of Agriculture, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Room 0623A, 1400 Independence Ave SW., Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202 720-0292
Fax: 202 720-4628
Email: gwollam@fgisdc.usda.gov

RIN: 0580-AA58

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Final Rule Stage

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)

175. GENERAL REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS FOR CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 1621 et seq

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 868.1; 7 CFR 868.80

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: GIPSA proposes to amend regulations under the AMA of 1946 to allow FGIS and State cooperators to use contractors to perform specified inspection services. FGIS has determined that private firms, institutions, and individuals, working under contract with FGIS field offices and State cooperators, may be able to perform some inspection services, at certain locations, more effectively or at less cost than if those services were performed by Department or State employees. Consequently, FGIS proposes to amend the regulations to allow FGIS and State cooperators to contract for service work and to license individual contractors and those employed by contractors.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	01/15/98	63 FR 2353
NPRM Comment Period End	03/16/98	
Final Action	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: George Wollam, Regulatory Liaison, Department of Agriculture, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Room 0623 S, 1400 Independence Ave SW., Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202 720-0292
Fax: 202 720-4628
Email: gwollam@fgisdc.usda.gov

RIN: 0580-AA54

176. TOLERANCES FOR DIVIDERS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 71 et seq

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 801.10

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: GIPSA proposes to remove section 801.10, Tolerance for Dividers, from the CFR. Since GIPSA no longer tests dividers, the rule is no longer needed. By using the direct final rule process GIPSA will give the public general notice of its intent to remove the rule and provide interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rulemaking through submission of comments.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Direct Final Rule	04/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: George Wollam, Regulatory Liaison, Department of Agriculture, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Room 0623 S, 1400 Independence Ave SW., Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202 720-0292
Fax: 202 720-4628
Email: gwollam@fgisdc.usda.gov

RIN: 0580-AA57

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Long-Term Actions

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)

177. POULTRY GROWER
CONTRACTS, SCALES, WEIGHING

Priority: Other Significant

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 201

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	02/10/97	62 FR 5935
ANPRM Comment	05/12/97	
Period End		
Next Action	Undetermined	
Small Entities Affected:	Undetermined	

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: George Wollam

Phone: 202 720-0292

Fax: 202 720-4628

Email: gwollam@fgisdc.usda.gov

RIN: 0580-AA51

BILLING CODE 3410-EN-F

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Proposed Rule Stage

Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)

178. SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD
PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS,
AND CHILDREN (WIC): FOOD
DELIVERY SYSTEMS INTEGRITY

Priority: Other Significant

Legal Authority: 42 USC 1786

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 246

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: A proposed rule addressing WIC Food Delivery Systems was published on December 28, 1990 (55 FR 53446). The Department provided a 120-day comment period for the proposed rule, which closed on April 29, 1991. Nearly 1,100 comments were received from a wide variety of sources. Despite the degree of preliminary input to the December 28, 1990, proposed rule, many of the commenters responding during the formal comment period suggested that the Department's food delivery regulations needed to be proposed again, rather than proceeding directly to a final rule. In addition, several members of Congress requested that the rule be repropounded in light of its impact on State agency food delivery systems. Therefore, the Department intends to issue a second proposed rule addressing WIC food delivery systems and requirements. This second rule will address all of the provisions contained in the previous rulemaking, but will contain significant modifications to some of the proposed provisions, as well as clarifications of several provisions that may not have been clearly understood in the earlier rule. (88-512)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/00/98	
NPRM Comment	10/00/98	
Period End		
Final Action	06/00/99	
Final Action Effective	10/00/99	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses

Government Levels Affected: State, Local, Tribal

Sectors Affected: None

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AA80

179. FOOD DISTRIBUTION
PROGRAMS—IMPLEMENTATION OF
1990 FARM BILL

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

Legal Authority: PL 101-624

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 250; 7 CFR 251

Legal Deadline: Final, Statutory, July 30, 1992.

Abstract: This rule will revise the requirements for evaluation of State warehousing and distribution systems and conversion to commercial systems. (91-004)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	07/00/98	
NPRM Comment	09/00/98	
Period End		

Small Entities Affected: Businesses, Governmental Jurisdictions, Organizations

Government Levels Affected: State, Local

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AB28

180. PROVISIONS OF COMPUTER
MATCHING AND PRIVACY
PROTECTION ACT OF 1988,
AMENDMENTS OF 1990, AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DISQUALIFIED RECIPIENT
SUBSYSTEM

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Legal Authority: 5 USC 552(a) Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act; 7 USC 2015(b) Food Stamp Act

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 272; 7 CFR 273

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: In accordance with the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act, PL 100-503, and the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Amendments of 1990, PL 101-508, the Food Stamp Program must extend certain protections to persons whose benefits could be adversely affected by computer matches. These protections include independent verification of computer information, notification to the affected individual and provision of an opportunity to respond to the information before an adverse action becomes effective.

In addition, this proposed rule describes requirements for State agencies to report information on individuals disqualified from the program for intentional program violations to FCS and the related FCS computer matching program known as the Disqualified Recipient Subsystem (DRS). (89-010)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	11/00/98	
NPRM Comment	01/00/99	
Period End		
Final Action	07/00/99	
Final Action Effective	10/00/99	

USDA—FNS

Proposed Rule Stage

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: State, Local

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AB51

181. ELIMINATION OF WHOLE COW'S MILK FROM THE INFANT MEAL PATTERN

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Legal Authority: 42 USC 1751 to 1760; 42 USC 1762a; 42 USC 1765; 42 USC 1766; 42 USC 1773; 42 USC 1779

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 210; 7 CFR 220; 7 CFR 226

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This action proposes three amendments that would affect meal pattern requirements for infants under the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, and Child and Adult Care Food Program, 7 CFR parts 210, 220, and 226, respectively. Scientific studies on infant nutrition have demonstrated that it is difficult for infants to consume a balanced diet, with adequate nutrients, when whole cow's milk replaces breast milk or iron-fortified formula. Given the nutritional and medical concerns about cow's milk, this rule proposes to prohibit the service of whole cow's milk to infants through age 11 months, and would require that breast milk or iron-fortified formula be served for an infant's entire first year of life. Tables describing infant meal requirements are amended and new tables are added to indicate what the Department's recommendations are regarding the offering of breast milk to infants, and clarify which meals containing breast milk in place of iron-fortified formula may fulfill the infant meal pattern. These changes would provide additional assistance to child care providers who refer to the infant meal pattern for guidance. Finally, this rule proposes to correct the definition of "infant formula" in part 226 and make the wording consistent with the definition that is currently used in parts 210 and 220. (95-005)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	02/00/99	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: State

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AB81

182. FOOD STAMP PROGRAM: FOOD STAMP RECIPIENT CLAIM ESTABLISHMENT AND COLLECTION STANDARDS

Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 7 USC 2011 to 2032

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 272; 7 CFR 273

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Food and Consumer Service is revising Food Stamp Program regulations which cover the establishment and collection of recipient claims. This action is the result of the enactment of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) and is consistent with the President's regulatory reform effort. In addition, this rule revises existing discretionary areas to improve claim establishment and promote effective management. The inability of State agencies to establish and collect claims has continuously been cited as a deficiency by the Department's Office of Inspector General. The last significant revision to these regulations was in 1983. Subsequent activities, such as technological advances and general debt management regulations, have rendered many portions of the current rule obsolete. In addition, the current rule has been found to place unnecessary burdens on State agencies. State agencies are responsible for establishing and collecting recipient claims. (94-005)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	07/00/98	
Final Action	09/00/99	
Final Action Effective	12/00/99	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: State, Local

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AB88

183. FOOD STAMP PROGRAM: REVISIONS TO THE RETAIL FOOD STORE DEFINITION AND PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION GUIDANCE

Priority: Other Significant

Legal Authority: PL 103-225; 7 USC 2012; 7 USC 2018

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 271; 7 CFR 278

Legal Deadline: Final, Statutory, March 25, 1994.

Abstract: It is not anticipated that this proposed rule will impact program costs. It is anticipated that the clarifications of program eligibility criteria in this proposed rule will make it easier for firms to understand and for the Food and Consumer Service to administer. (95-003)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	07/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AB90

184. FOOD STAMP PROGRAM: RETAILER APPLICATION PROCESSING

Priority: Other Significant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 2011 to 2032; PL 104-193

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 278.1

USDA—FNS

Proposed Rule Stage

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This rule would increase from 30 to 60 days the initial application processing time frame for stores that apply for authorization. It would also allow FCS to request specific documentation to verify applicant firms' eligibility. Such information would include, but would not be limited to, business licenses, photographic identification cards, bills of sale, deeds, leases, sales contracts, certificates of incorporation, sales records, invoice records, and tax records. This documentation would be used to confirm self-reported information provided on the application form and to obtain third-party verification. This rule also includes two provisions dealing with disclosure of retailer tax information based on changes made by Pub. L. 104-193, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA). (95-008)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	08/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AC05

185. SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM: PROGRAM MEAL SERVICE DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Legal Authority: PL 103-448; 42 USC 1769a

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 225

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: Implements provision of PL 103-448 which permits Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) meal service to be provided at non-school sites to children who are not in school for a period during the months of October through April due to a natural disaster, building repair, court order, or similar cause. Rule also simplifies the SFSP sponsor application and State

monitoring requirements in order to eliminate unnecessary paperwork and reduce administrative burden for sponsors and State agencies. (95-011)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	06/00/98	
Final Action	01/00/99	
Final Action Effective	02/00/99	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: State, Local

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AC06

186. CONSOLIDATION OF NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM AND SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM INTO COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAM

Priority: Other Significant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: PL 103-448

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 210; 7 CFR 220

Legal Deadline: Final, Statutory, May 2, 1996.

Abstract: Sec. 301 of P.L. 103-448 required the consolidation of the school lunch program and the school breakfast program into a comprehensive school meal program. In establishing the comprehensive school meal program, (a) children who are eligible for free and reduced price benefits will continue to receive such benefits; (b) the meals will continue to meet the nutritional requirements of sec. 9(a)(1) of the National School Lunch Act (NSLA) and sec. 4(e)(1) of the Child Nutrition Act (CNA); and (c) breakfast and lunch payments will continue to meet the requirements of sec. 4 and 11 of the NSLA and sec. 4 of the CNA. This regulation will consolidate the two programs by making structural changes to the framework of 7 CFR part 210 to accommodate the incorporation of

the breakfast program and by removing repetitive and obsolete provisions. Further, 7 CFR part 220 will be removed in its entirety. (95-013)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	07/00/98	
Final Action	02/00/99	
Final Action Effective	02/00/99	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: State, Local

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AC10

187. FSP: COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT RETAILER DEBTS: ADMINISTRATIVE OFFSET

Priority: Other Significant

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

Legal Authority: PL 97-365; PL 104-134

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 278.6

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This rule notifies the public that FNS will begin referring delinquent retailer debts to the Treasury for administrative offset. These debts represent monetary penalties which FNS assessed against retailers who have violated Food Stamp Program rules and regulations. This rule implements authority granted by the Debt Collection Improvement Act, as amended. (95-014)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	07/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AC11

USDA—FNS

Proposed Rule Stage

188. RELEASE OF FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEAL ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION**Priority:** Other Significant**Legal Authority:** PL 103-448, sec 108**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 245**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: This rule would allow the disclosure and use of a student's free and reduced price school meal or free milk eligibility information when needed for certain educational programs, to facilitate eligibility determinations in other means tested programs, and for certain monitoring and investigative purposes. The rule would (1) establish limits on the persons and programs that may have access to a student's free and reduced price school meal or free milk eligibility information, (2) require that households be notified that information may be shared, and (3) provide penalties for unauthorized disclosures. The proposed amendments are intended to facilitate children's access to certain programs serving low-income children and protect free and reduced price eligibility information from misuse and unauthorized disclosures. (95-022)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	07/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	10/00/98	
Final Action	09/00/99	
Final Action Effective	10/00/99	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** State, Local

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AC21**189. FOOD STAMP PROGRAM: WELFARE REFORM AND REGULATORY REVIEW OF PROGRAM MANAGEMENT****Priority:** Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or

duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 7 USC 2011 to 2032**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 271; 7 CFR 272; 7 CFR 273.15; 7 CFR 274; 7 CFR 275; 7 CFR 276; 7 CFR 281**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: The Department of Agriculture is proposing substantial revisions to the Food Stamp Program regulations governing State agency administrative and management requirements. This action is being taken to incorporate certain provisions from the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Welfare Reform) and in response to the President's Regulatory Reform effort and as part of the Department's ongoing effort to expand State flexibility. This action will provide the State agencies with more flexibility in operating the Food Stamp Program by eliminating outdated or overly prescriptive requirements. This rule also proposes to implement provisions of the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA), which shifts the focus of Federal agencies from managing processes to achieving results. (95-023)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	09/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	12/00/98	
Final Action	09/00/99	
Final Action Effective	09/00/99	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** State, Local, Federal

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AC22**190. IMPROVING MANAGEMENT AND PROGRAM INTEGRITY IN THE CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM****Priority:** Other Significant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 42 USC 1758; 42 USC 1766**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 226**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: This rulemaking proposes to incorporate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program regulations several recommendations suggested by the Department's Office of Inspector General as a result of recently conducted audits. The audits revealed high levels of noncompliance by sponsors and family day care homes in several areas of Program operations.

The Department also proposes to incorporate in the regulations several recommendations from a State-Federal task force in the areas of (1) State approval of both new and renewing institutions; (2) State oversight of institutions; and (3) training and operational requirements for child care institutions, sponsors of family day care homes, outside-school-hours care centers, and family day care home providers.

As a result of the task force's recommendations, this rulemaking also proposes other changes to the CACFP regulations which are intended to streamline the operation of the program at the State and local levels, improve its integrity, and strengthen oversight control. (95-024)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	07/00/98	
Final Action	01/00/99	
Final Action Effective	03/00/99	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** State, Local

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AC24**191. DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS AND FREE MILK IN SCHOOLS: PROVISION 2 AND PROVISION 3****Priority:** Other Significant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing

USDA—FNS

Proposed Rule Stage

Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: PL 103-448

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 245

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: Currently, schools that serve all meals free for 3 consecutive years may determine free and reduced price school meal eligibility and take daily meal counts by category (free, reduced price and paid) once every 3 years. In years when actual meal counts by category are not taken, schools claim meals for reimbursement based on claiming percentages. This counting and claiming alternative is commonly referred to as Provision 2. This rule would allow schools to extend current procedures an additional 2 years if the socioeconomic status of the schools' population remains stable and allow subsequent 5-year cycles. This rule would also add another alternative for schools that serve all meals free for 4 consecutive years. These schools would receive the same level of cash and commodity assistance they received in the last year free and reduced price eligibility determinations were made, adjusted for inflation and changes in enrollment. For both alternatives, meal costs that exceed reimbursement must be paid for with other than Federal funds. (96-003)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	09/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	12/00/98	
Final Action	08/00/99	
Final Action Effective	09/00/99	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: State, Local

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246
Fax: 703 305-2921

RIN: 0584-AC25

192. FOOD STAMP PROGRAM REGULATORY REVIEW: CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS

Priority: Other Significant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will eliminate existing text in the CFR.

Legal Authority: 7 USC 2011 to 2026

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 273

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This action proposes to amend Food Stamp Program rules governing the certification of eligible households. It results from a comprehensive, page-by-page review of all existing Food Stamp Program regulations conducted in response to the President's regulatory reform initiative. The proposed changes would empower States to set their own procedures for case management and customer service; remove overly prescriptive, outdated, and redundant provisions; and emphasize recipient responsibility for complying with Program requirements. (96-006)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	03/00/99	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

Government Levels Affected: State, Local

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive Room 308, Alexandria VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AC28

193. PART 240, CASH IN LIEU OF DONATED FOODS AND PART 250, FOOD DISTRIBUTION REGULATIONS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: PL 103-448

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 240; 7 CFR 250

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This rule will incorporate provisions of the Healthy Meals for Healthy Americans Act of 1994 relative to schools participating in the National School Lunch Program. (96-010)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	08/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses

Government Levels Affected: State

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246
Fax: 703 305-2921

RIN: 0584-AC31

194. FOOD STAMP PROGRAM REGULATORY REVIEW: FSP STANDARDS FOR APPROVAL AND OPERATION OF FOOD STAMP ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER SYSTEMS

Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 7 USC 2011 TO 2034

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 274.12

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This rule proposes revisions to food stamp regulations affecting the standards and administration of EBT systems for food stamp issuance. Current regulations at 7 CFR 274.12 delineate the standards that EBT systems must meet in order to be approved for operation. This rule will revise those regulations to provide the State agency more flexibility in implementing and operating those systems. Clarifications and FCS settlement improvements will also be incorporated into the rule. (96-016)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/00/98	

USDA—FNS

Proposed Rule Stage

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM Comment Period End	08/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman,
Agency Regulatory Officer, Department
of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition
Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room
308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246
Fax: 703 305-2921

RIN: 0584-AC37

195. NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM AND SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM: ADDITIONAL MENU PLANNING ALTERNATIVES

Priority: Other Significant

Legal Authority: PL 104-149

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 210; 7 CFR 220

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: Public Law 104-149, enacted on May 29, 1996, establishes additional menu planning alternatives for the school meals programs and requires the secretary to establish guidelines for the use of these additional alternatives. One alternative specified in the statute was the meal pattern in effect for the 1994-95 school year; the other was "any reasonable approach." This proposed regulation would reestablish the meal pattern as a menu planning alternative and provide guidelines for school food authorities to develop a different approach to menu planning. (96-017)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	06/00/98	
Final Action	01/00/99	
Final Action Effective	02/00/99	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: State,
Local

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman,
Agency Regulatory Officer, Department
of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition
Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room
308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246
Fax: 703 305-2921

RIN: 0584-AC38

196. FSP: PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY PROVISIONS OF THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1996

Priority: Economically Significant.
Major under 5 USC 801.

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: PL 104-193

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 271; 7 CFR 272;
7 CFR 273

Legal Deadline: Other, Statutory,
August 22, 1996.

Stat. implementation deadline of 8/22/96 for sec 813, 814, 820, 821, 837, and 911 of PL 104-193; stat. implementation deadline of 7/1/97 for sec 115, and 11/22/96 for sec 824 of PL 104-193.

Abstract: This rule will implement 13 provisions of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. (96-019)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: State,
Local, Federal

Analysis: Regulatory Flexibility
Analysis; Regulatory Impact Analysis
06/00/98

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman,
Agency Regulatory Officer, Department
of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition
Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room
308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AC39

197. FSP: NONDISCRETIONARY PROVISIONS OF THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1996

Priority: Economically Significant.
Major under 5 USC 801.

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: PL 104-193, sec 803; PL 104-193, sec 804; PL 104-193, sec 805; PL 104-193, sec 809; PL 104-193, sec 810; PL 104-193, sec 838; PL 104-193, sec 109; PL 104-193, sec 826

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 271.2; 7 CFR 273.1; 7 CFR 273.2; 7 CFR 273.8; 7 CFR 273.9; 7 CFR 273.10; 7 CFR 276.2(e)

Legal Deadline: Other, Statutory.

Statutory Implementation Dates: PL 104-193, sec 809 - 1/1/97; PL 104-193, sec 803, 805 and 838 - 08/22/96; PL 104-193, sec 804 and 810 - 10/01/96.

Abstract: This proposed rule amends the Food Stamp Program regulations to implement 8 provisions of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. These provisions which require no interpretation or discretion: 1) freeze the minimum allotment at \$10; 2) change the way the maximum allotments are calculated to use 100% of the Thrifty Food Plan as opposed to 103%; 3) freeze the standard deduction at current level and eliminate the adjustment procedures; 4) cap the excess shelter expense deduction; 5) change the household composition definition so that children under 22 years of age and living with their parents cannot be a separate household; 6) increase the time frame from 5 to 7 days for expedited service; 7) set a time limit of not more than 90 days for considering the person homeless; and 8) set the fair market value of vehicles at \$4,600 through 9/30/96 and raise it to \$4,650 effective 10/1/96 and eliminate future adjustments. (96-021)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses

Government Levels Affected: State,
Local

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman,
Agency Regulatory Officer, Department
of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition
Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room
308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AC41

USDA—FNS

Proposed Rule Stage

198. FOOD STAMP PROGRAM: SIMPLIFIED FOOD STAMP PROGRAM PROVISIONS OF THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1996

Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Legal Authority: PL 104-193, sec 854

CFR Citation: Not yet determined

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This proposed rule would implement section 854 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 and provides State agencies with an option to align food stamp and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program requirements in determining benefit levels for low-income eligible families. (96-023)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/00/98	
NPRM Comment	07/00/98	
Period End		

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: State, Local, Tribal, Federal

Sectors Affected: None

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2446

RIN: 0584-AC43

199. ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER (EBT) PROVISIONS OF THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1996

Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Legal Authority: PL 104-193, sec 825

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 274.3; 7 CFR 274.12

Legal Deadline: Other, Statutory, October 1, 2002.

Statutory implementation date of EBT systems per section 825.

Abstract: On August 22, 1996, the President signed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-193). This rule proposes to implement the Electronic

Benefit Transfer (EBT) provisions found in section 825 of this law which affect the Food Stamp Program. These provisions are meant to encourage implementation of EBT systems to replace food stamp coupons. (96-024)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/00/98	
NPRM Comment	06/00/98	
Period End		
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: State, Federal

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AC44

200. FOOD STAMP PROGRAM: WORK PROVISIONS OF THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1996

Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Legal Authority: PL 104-193

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 273.7; 7 CFR 273.22

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This proposed rule will implement revisions to the Food Stamp Program's work and employment and training requirements, as well as new provisions for a work supplementation or support program and an employment initiative program. (96-025)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/00/98	
NPRM Comment	08/00/98	
Period End		

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: State, Local

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302-1594
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AC45

201. FOOD STAMP PROGRAM: RETAILER INTEGRITY, FRAUD REDUCTION AND PENALTIES

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: PL 104-193; PL 104-127

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 271; 7 CFR 278; 7 CFR 279

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This rulemaking will implement the three-tiered legislative initiative for combating retailer fraud in the Food Stamp Program: (1) Pre-authorization screening - tightens applicant retailer verification requirements to ensure only legitimate stores are authorized; (2) post-authorization controls - allows FNS to: move quickly to immediately suspend stores that are caught trafficking; access more information from more sources about business integrity; and better track stores using up-to-date technology; (3) stiffer penalties - will impose tougher penalties on retailers found violating the program. (96-026)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/00/98	
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AC46

202. REGULATORY REFORM: PROVISIONS RELATING TO FIRMS PARTICIPATING IN THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 7 USC 2011 to 2032

USDA—FNS

Proposed Rule Stage

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 278; 7 CFR 279**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: In response to the President's regulatory reform effort, the Food and Nutrition Service is proposing to revise or eliminate certain sections of parts 278 and 279 of the Food Stamp Program (FSP) regulations which govern the authorization and sanctioning of firms which participate in the FSP. The proposed changes which will be made to parts 278 and 279 are discretionary. (96-028)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	07/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246
Fax: 703 305-2921

RIN: 0584-AC48

203. FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM: REGULATORY IMPLEMENTATION OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1996 (PL 104-193, 110 STAT 2105)

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant**Legal Authority:** PL 104-193**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 250 (Revision); 7 CFR 251 (Revision)**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: This rule proposes to amend provisions of the Food Distribution Program Regulations and the Emergency Food Assistance Program Regulations to implement the personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, commonly known as Welfare Reform, while generally streamlining and providing greater clarity to these regulations. In accordance with the Welfare Reform legislation, the proposals contained in this rule would address various program changes required by the repeal of Section 110 of the Hunger Prevention Act of 1988, which authorized the former Soup Kitchens/Food Banks Program (SK/FB) and the amendment of definitional terms regarding organizational

eligibility in the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), contained in the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983, accompanying the absorption of SK/FB into TEFAP. Changes to term definitions are also proposed in order to provide greater clarity to the regulations. As required by Welfare Reform, this rule also proposes changes in the required contents and frequency of submission of the TEFAP State plan of operation, an encouragement for States to create advisory boards comprised of public and private entities with an interest in the distribution of TEFAP commodities, broadening the definition of allowable usage of TEFAP administrative funds at the State level, and greater flexibility for States in meeting the TEFAP maintenance of effort requirement. In order to reduce the paperwork burden and afford the States greater flexibility, this rule also proposes changes in TEFAP recordkeeping, monitoring, and reporting requirements. (96-029)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	08/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AC49

204. SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC): DISQUALIFICATION OF WIC VENDORS WHO ARE DISQUALIFIED FROM THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant**Legal Authority:** 42 USC 1786**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 246**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: This rule would establish criteria for the disqualification of WIC vendors who are disqualified from the Food Stamp Program, as required by Pub. L. 104-193, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. As mandated in Pub. L. 104-193, such

disqualifications are for the same period of time as the Food Stamp Program disqualification and are not subject to judicial or administrative review. This rule would also establish mandatory sanctions for the most serious WIC program violations. (96-030)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	06/00/98	
Final Action	08/00/98	
Final Action Effective	10/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses, Governmental Jurisdictions**Government Levels Affected:** State, Local, Tribal, Federal

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AC50

205. WIC: EVALUATION OF WIC PROGRAM INFANT FORMULA REBATE CONTRACTS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant**Legal Authority:** 42 USC 1786**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 246**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: This rule would implement the mandate of P.L. 104-180, title IV, Appropriations Act for Domestic Food Programs, relative to food cost containment in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). Specifically, the rule would require State agencies that are required to procure infant formula through a sole-source infant formula rebate system to award infant formula rebate contracts to the bidder offering the lowest net price unless the State agency demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Food and Nutrition Service that the weighted average retail price for different brands of infant formula in the State does not vary by more than five percent. (97-003)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/00/98	
Final Action	09/00/98	

USDA—FNS

Proposed Rule Stage

Small Entities Affected: Businesses, Governmental Jurisdictions

Government Levels Affected: State, Local, Tribal, Federal

Procurement: This is a procurement-related action for which there is a statutory requirement. There is no paperwork burden associated with this action.

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246
Fax: 703 305-2921

RIN: 0584–AC55

206. FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS PROGRAMS: COMMODITY ACCEPTABILITY REPORT

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

Legal Authority: PL 100-237

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 250.13(k)

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: Food Distribution Programs - Reduction of the Paperwork Burden Associated with this Requirement for State and Local Agencies. This rule proposes to reduce the paperwork burden for State and local agencies administering Food Distribution Programs by reducing the sample size needed for collecting commodity acceptability report information for the National School Lunch Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, Commodity Supplemental Food Program, and the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations. A sixty-day comment period will be provided. (97-004)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/00/98	
Final Action	12/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302

Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584–AC56

207. • WIC: FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES AND ADMINISTRATION (NSA) FUNDING FORMULA RULE

Priority: Other Significant

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

Legal Authority: 42 USC 1786

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 246

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This regulation proposes to revise both the food and nutrition services and administration (NSA) funding formulas to improve the effectiveness of WIC funds distribution in a stable funding environment with limited program growth. The revised food funding formula will help to ensure food funds are allocated to States that can utilize the funds to maintain current participation as well as to direct additional funds, if available, to States that are serving a lesser proportion of their WIC eligible population as compared to other States. The revised NSA funding formula will simplify the funding formula by deleting obsolete components and will update existing components to more equitably distribute funding among WIC State Agencies. (97-013)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/00/98	
Final Action	08/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses

Government Levels Affected: State, Local, Tribal

Agency Contact: Sharon Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246
Fax: 703 305-2921

RIN: 0584–AC64

208. • FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS: DISQUALIFICATION PENALTIES FOR INTENTIONAL PROGRAM VIOLATIONS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 2011 to 2032

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 253

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This rule proposes the establishment of disqualification penalties under the Food Distribution Program for Indian Reservations (FDPIR) for intentional program violations (IPV). It will include provisions that define IPV, establish disqualification penalties for initial and subsequent violations, and address the procedures and requirements for disqualification hearings and notices. The proposed rule will also address the establishment and handling of claims against households. This proposed rulemaking is in response to a recent audit recommendation by USDA's Office of Inspector General to adopt disqualification penalty procedures for IPV's. FDPIR is an alternative to the Food Stamp Program for eligible households living on or near Indian reservations. Food Stamp Program regulations at 7 CFR 273.16 establish disqualification penalties for IPV's and require State agencies to take appropriate action on alleged cases of IPV's. In proposing similar requirements under FDPIR, we expect to deter program abuse, thereby improving program integrity. (97-012)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	08/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	10/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Governmental Jurisdictions

Government Levels Affected: State, Tribal

Agency Contact: Sharon Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246
Fax: 703 305-2921

RIN: 0584–AC65

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)

Final Rule Stage

209. CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM: AUTHORITY TO COLLECT OVERCLAIMS
Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant**Legal Authority:** 42 USC 1766**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 226**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: Establishes the Department's authority to collect overclaims where participating institutions fail to comply with regulatory recordkeeping requirements. (96-009)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/05/95	60 FR 62227
NPRM Comment Period End	02/05/96	
Final Action	06/00/98	
Final Action Effective	07/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** State

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AB19
210. PERMANENT AGREEMENTS/DIRECT CERTIFICATION IN NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH, SCHOOL BREAKFAST, AND SPECIAL MILK PROGRAMS
Priority: Other Significant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: PL 101-147; PL 104-193**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 210; 7 CFR 215; 7 CFR 220; 7 CFR 245**Legal Deadline:** Final, Statutory, July 1, 1990.

Abstract: In response to the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 1989, the Department proposed to (1) make the agreement between the State agency and school food authorities a permanent document, which may be amended as necessary; and (2) allow school officials to certify children eligible for free meals based

on information obtained directly from the State or local agency administering the Food Stamp or Aid for Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) Program. As part of the permanent agreement, the Department had also proposed to make most of the provisions in the school food authorities' free and reduced price school meal policy statement permanent. Subsequent to the proposal, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 further amended the National School Lunch Act to eliminate the annual submission of the free and reduced price policy statement. In accordance with the statute, the school food authority shall not be required to resubmit its policy statement to the State agency for approval unless there is a substantive change, as specified by the State agency, in the school food authorities' free and reduced price policy. The statute also replaces AFDC with the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. Children in households participating in TANF in States that the Secretary determines have comparable standards or more stringent standards than the program on June 1, 1995, shall continue to be automatically eligible for free meals. (89-520)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/28/91	56 FR 24033
NPRM Comment Period End	07/29/91	
Final Action	05/00/98	
Final Action Effective	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** State, Local

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AB35
211. FOOD STAMP PROGRAM: 1995 QUALITY CONTROL TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS
Priority: Other Significant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or

duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 7 USC 2011 to 2032**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 271.2; 7 CFR 275.3; 7 CFR 275.10; 7 CFR 275.11; 7 CFR 275.12; 7 CFR 275.13; 7 CFR 275.23**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: The Food and Consumer Service is proposing technical changes to the Food Stamp Program's Quality Control System which will reduce the workload on State agencies and improve the efficiency of the quality control system. The proposed changes would: (1) permit State agencies to reduce their sample sizes; (2) clarify the minimum size of the Federal subsample; (3) clarify State sampling procedures; (4) change the formulas for calculating Federal subsample sizes; (5) clarify the process of conducting a quality control review of negative subsystem cases and add suspended cases, those cases that are certified for the Program but do not receive benefits, to the sample universe of cases that are reviewed under the negative subsystem; (6) change the error dollar tolerance level; (7) modify the requirements regarding a home visit in active quality control reviews; (8) provide a variance exclusion under certain circumstances for errors resulting from incorrect policy issued in written State agency policies or directives; (9) adjust the case completion standard; and (10) codify into regulations those circumstances under which Federal quality control findings or disposition for a case will be changed. (92-006)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	09/10/96	61 FR 47680
NPRM Comment Period End	11/12/96	
Final Action	08/00/98	
Final Action Effective	10/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** State, Federal

Additional Information: RIN 0584-AB07 has been withdrawn, and the actions in that proposed rule have been included in this action.

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 308, Alexandria, VA 22302

USDA—FNS

Final Rule Stage

Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AB38

212. FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS—OKLAHOMA WAIVER AUTHORITY**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Legal Authority:** PL 97-98, Sec 1338; PL 95-113**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 253; 7 CFR 254**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: This direct final rule will extend the Department's authority to grant waivers in Oklahoma to serve urban places in excess of 10,000 people. This authority expired on September 30, 1985. This rule will also create consistency with Food Stamp Program on the treatment of child support payments and make several technical corrections. (94-002)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	06/00/98	
Final Action	08/00/98	
Final Action Effective	08/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Governmental Jurisdictions**Government Levels Affected:** State, Tribal

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AB56

213. FOOD STAMP PROGRAM: ANTICIPATING INCOME AND REPORTING CHANGES**Priority:** Other Significant**Unfunded Mandates:** This action may affect State, local or tribal governments.

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 7 USC 2011 to 2032**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 272; 7 CFR 273**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: This rule proposes revisions in Food Stamp Program procedures for

reporting and acting on changes in earned income. The changes are designed to increase State agency flexibility and improve procedures for determining the eligibility and benefits of households whose income fluctuates unpredictably. Under this proposal, State agencies would choose from three different reporting requirements for households with earned income. The reporting requirement a State agency selects would replace the current requirement that households report a change of more than \$25 in earned income. In addition to reporting a change in source of income, households would be required to report one of the following: a change in wage rate or salary and a change in part-time or full-time status, provided the household is certified for no more than 3 months; a change in wage rate or salary and a change of more than 5 hours a week that is expected to continue for more than a month; or a change in the amount earned of more than \$80 a month. (93-005)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/17/96	61 FR 66233
NPRM Comment Period End	02/18/97	
Final Action	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** State, Local, Federal

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AB57

214. FOOD STAMP PROGRAM: PAYMENT OF CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF STATE AGENCIES**Priority:** Other Significant**Legal Authority:** 7 USC 2011 to 2032; PL 103-66, sec 13961**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 277**Legal Deadline:** Other, Statutory, April 1, 1994.

The Act requires funding rate reduction effective 04/01/94.

Abstract: State agencies are reimbursed by FCS at standard or enhanced Federal reimbursement level for all allowable

costs incurred in the State's operation of the Food Stamp Program. This proposed rule would reduce the Federal reimbursement rate for State agencies for fraud control, system development, and immigration status verification to the standard 50 percent rate. It would also limit the time period during which State agencies may file a claim for retroactive funding, and allows the cost of certifying aid to families with dependent children to be charged to the Food Stamp Program for purposes of Federal reimbursement. (93-010)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	11/22/94	59 FR 60079
NPRM Comment Period End	01/23/95	
Final Action	06/00/98	
Final Action Effective	10/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** State, Local

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AB66

215. FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS: DEFINITION OF INDIAN TRIBAL HOUSEHOLD**Priority:** Other Significant**Unfunded Mandates:** Undetermined**Legal Authority:** PL 88-525; PL 97-98, sec 1338; PL 95-113**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 253; 7 CFR 254**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: This final rule will amend part 253 to permit households containing a Native American living in "near areas" to participate in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) regardless of the Native American's tribal affiliation or age. It will also amend part 254 to permit households containing a Native American to participate in FDPIR in Oklahoma regardless of the Native American's age. (82-217)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	10/20/87	52 FR 39158

USDA—FNS

Final Rule Stage

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	01/11/94	59 FR 1447
Final Action	08/00/98	
Final Action Effective	08/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: State, Tribal

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AB67

216. FOOD STAMP PROGRAM: QUALITY CONTROL PROVISIONS OF THE MICKEY LELAND CHILDHOOD HUNGER RELIEF ACT

Priority: Other Significant

Legal Authority: PL 103-66, sec 13951

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 272; 7 CFR 275

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: To implement quality control changes to the Food Stamp Act required by section 13951 of the Mickey Leland Childhood Hunger Relief Act in the following areas: 1) interest on quality control claims, 2) the formula for determining quality control claim amounts, 3) variance exclusion for the application of new regulations, 4) time frames for completion of the arbitration process, 5) time frames for determining final error rates, the national average payment error rate, and the amounts of payment claims against State agencies, 6) time frames for notifying State agencies of payment claims, 7) the addition of specific criteria for a determination that "good cause" exists for not imposing a payment claim, and 8) the transfer of authority to make "good cause" determinations from FNS to the Administrative Law Judges. These provisions are nondiscretionary and will not result in an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more, or a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individuals, industries, Federal, State or local government agencies, or geographical regions. (93-018)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/23/95	60 FR 32615
NPRM Comment Period End	08/22/95	

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Rule	06/02/97	62 FR 29652
Final Rule Comment Period End	05/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: State, Local

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AB75

217. IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGISLATIVE REFORMS IN THE SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Legal Authority: 42 USC 1758; 42 USC 1761; 42 USC 1762a

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 225

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: Recent legislative actions have made a number of changes to conditions affecting reimbursement, participation of certain service organizations, and State administration under the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). This interim rule implements several nondiscretionary amendments to SFSP that are prescribed by the Healthy Meals for Healthy Americans Act of 1994 (Pub. L. 103-448) and the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-193). This rule also formalizes categorical eligibility for households participating in the Food Distribution Program on Indian reservations, and makes a number of technical corrections to part 225. (95-025)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	09/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: State

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AC23

218. SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WIC: IMPLEMENTATION OF WIC-RELATED PROVISIONS OF PL 104-193, PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1996

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 42 USC 1786

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 246

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This rule would implement the WIC-related provisions of Pub. L. 104-193, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996. These provisions include: sharing of WIC information with the Immigration and Naturalization Service; revision to the definition of homeless individual; and the elimination of several current requirements including annual evaluation of nutrition education and breastfeeding promotion and support efforts, provision of written information on certain programs, and timeframes for action on local agency applications for program participation. (96-031)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	04/00/98	
Final Action	10/00/98	
Final Action Effective	12/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: State, Local, Tribal, Federal

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AC51

219. IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGISLATIVE CHANGES IN THE CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

Legal Authority: PL 104-193

USDA—FNS

Final Rule Stage

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 226**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: This interim rulemaking will implement non-discretionary changes to the Child and Adult Care Food Program regulations mandated by Public Law 104-193, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. This rule will not implement changes to section 708(e) of P.L. 104-193, targeting reimbursement for meals served in family day care homes, which was addressed in a separate interim rulemaking published on January 7, 1997 (62 FR 889). (96-032)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	12/00/98	
Final Action	06/00/99	
Final Action Effective	07/00/99	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** State, Local

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition

Service, 3101 Park Center Drive Room 308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AC52**220. • FOOD STAMP PROVISIONS OF THE BALANCED BUDGET ACT OF 1997**

Priority: Economically Significant. Major under 5 USC 801.

Legal Authority: PL 105-33, sec 1001; PL 105-33, sec 1002

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 272.1(g); 7 CFR 273.7(c); 7 CFR 273.7(d); 7 CFR 273.24

Legal Deadline: Final, Statutory, August 5, 1998.

PL 105-33, sec 1005 requires publication of a rule implementing Title I provisions of that Act no later than 1 yr. after date of enactment. PL 105-33 was enacted 8/5/97.

Abstract: This rule will implement two food stamp provisions of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. The first provision provides States the authority to exempt from the work requirement at Section 6(o)(2) of the Food Stamp Act up to 15 percent of the State's caseload that

is subject to the requirement. The second provision provides additional funding for administration of the Food Stamp Employment and training (E&T) programs. These two provisions enhance State flexibility in exempting portions of a State's caseload from the food stamp work requirement and increase significantly the funding available to create work opportunities for recipients that must meet the work requirement in order to remain eligible for the Food Stamp Program. (97-011)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	08/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** State, Local

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246
Fax: 703 305-2921

RIN: 0584-AC63

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Long-Term Actions

Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)

221. SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC): MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 246**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** State, Local, Tribal

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AB10**222. SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC): FOOD COST CONTAINMENT REQUIREMENTS****Priority:** Other Significant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 246**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	03/15/90	55 FR 9709
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** State, Local, Tribal

Procurement: This is a procurement-related action for which there is a statutory requirement. There is a paperwork burden associated with this action.

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AB11**223. SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC): INFANT FORMULA PROCUREMENT ACT OF 1992****Priority:** Other Significant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 246**Timetable:** Next Action Undetermined**Small Entities Affected:** None**Government Levels Affected:** State, Tribal, Federal

Procurement: This is a procurement-related action for which there is a statutory requirement. There is no paperwork burden associated with this action.

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AB52

USDA—FNS

Long-Term Actions

224. SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS: TECHNICAL AND NONDISCRETIONARY AMENDMENTS**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 215; 7 CFR 235; 7 CFR 245**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	00/00/00	
Final Action Effective	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** State, Local**Agency Contact:** Sheri Ackerman
Phone: 703 305-2246**RIN:** 0584-AC01**225. SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC): IMPLEMENTATION OF WIC MANDATES OF THE HEALTHY MEALS FOR HEALTHY AMERICANS ACT OF 1994****Priority:** Other Significant**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 246**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** State, Local, Tribal**Agency Contact:** Sheri Ackerman
Phone: 703 305-2246**RIN:** 0584-AC02**226. AMENDMENT TO REMOVE FORMULATED GRAIN—FRUIT PRODUCT SECTION****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 220 app A**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** Sheri Ackerman
Phone: 703 305-2246**RIN:** 0584-AC09**227. MODIFICATION OF THE "VEGETABLE PROTEIN PRODUCTS" PORTION OF APPENDIX A OF 7 CFR PARTS 210, 225, AND 226****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 210 app A; 7 CFR 210.10(k)(3)(i); 7 CFR 210.10a(d)(2)(i); 7 CFR 225 app A; 7 CFR 225.16(f)(3); 7 CFR 226 app A; 7 CFR 220 app A**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** Sheri Ackerman
Phone: 703 305-2246**RIN:** 0584-AC18**228. CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM: CHILD NUTRITION AND WIC REAUTHORIZATION ACT AMENDMENTS AND HEALTHY MEALS FOR HEALTHY AMERICANS ACT OF 1994****Priority:** Other Significant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 226**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	02/26/98	63 FR 9721
Final Action	04/00/99	
Final Action Effective	05/00/99	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** State, Local**Agency Contact:** Sheri Ackerman
Phone: 703 305-2246**RIN:** 0584-AC20**229. NSLP/SBP/SMP/FDP/CACFP/SFSP/WIC: NONPROCUREMENT DEBARMENT****Priority:** Other Significant**CFR Citation:** None**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Procurement:** This is a procurement-related action for which there is a statutory requirement. The agency has not yet determined whether there is a paperwork burden associated with this action.**Agency Contact:** Sheri Ackerman
Phone: 703 305-2246
Fax: 703 305-2921**RIN:** 0584-AC26**230. WIC: MINOR WIC FOOD PACKAGE ADJUSTMENTS AND CORRECTIONS****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 246**Timetable:** Next Action Undetermined**Small Entities Affected:** None**Government Levels Affected:** State, Local, Tribal**Agency Contact:** Sheri Ackerman
Phone: 703 305-2246
Fax: 703 305-2921**RIN:** 0584-AC29**231. WIC: BLOODWORK REQUIREMENTS****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 246**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** State, Local, Tribal**Agency Contact:** Sheri Ackerman
Phone: 703 305-2246
Fax: 703 305-2921**RIN:** 0584-AC30

USDA—FNS

Long-Term Actions

232. SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC): ACCOMMODATION OF CULTURAL FOOD PREFERENCES IN THE WIC PROGRAM**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 246**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	06/23/94	59 FR 32406
ANPRM Comment	12/20/94	

Period End

Next Action Undetermined

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** State, Local, Tribal**Agency Contact:** Sheri Ackerman

Phone: 703 305-2246

Fax: 703 305-2921

RIN: 0584-AC32**233. NUTRITION EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS****Priority:** Other Significant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 227**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/00/99	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** Undetermined**Agency Contact:** Sheri Ackerman

Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AC34**234. FSP: STATE FLEXIBILITY AND CERTIFICATION PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC LAW 104-193****Priority:** Economically Significant. Major under 5 USC 801.**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 272.3; 7 CFR 273.1; 7 CFR 273.2; 7 CFR 273.4; 7 CFR

273.9(c); 7 CFR 273.9(d); 7 CFR 273.10(a); 7 CFR 273.10(c) to (f); 7 CFR 273.11(a) to (c); 7 CFR 273.11(e); 7 CFR 273.11(j); 7 CFR 273.13; 7 CFR 273.14(b); 7 CFR 273.14(e)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	
NPRM Comment	00/00/00	

Period End

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** State, Local, Federal**Agency Contact:** Sheri Ackerman

Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AC40**235. WIC: NOTICE ANNOUNCING USDA'S DECISION TO RETAIN THE 6-GRAM SUGAR LIMIT FOR WIC CEREALS****Priority:** Other Significant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 246**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	03/18/96	61 FR 10903
ANPRM Comment	06/17/96	
Withdrawal of ANPRM	12/31/97	62 FR 68233
NPRM	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** Sheri Ackerman

Phone: 703 305-2246

Fax: 703 305-2921

RIN: 0584-AC59**236. • FOOD STAMP PROGRAM: ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER (EBT) BENEFIT ADJUSTMENTS****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Legal Authority:** 7 USC 2011 to 2032**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 273; 7 CFR 274**Legal Deadline:** None**Abstract:** This proposed rule will allow States and/or their EBT processors to make adjustments to an EBT household's food stamp account under certain circumstances. Current regulations do not allow adjustments to

a household's EBT account balance once the benefits have been made available to the household. Occasionally, however, system errors and other malfunctions result in out-of-balance settlement conditions which must be adjusted manually. This proposed rule describes the conditions under which an adjustment is allowed, and the accompanying notice requirements. The rule also makes changes to the representation formula. (97-009)

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 308, Alexandria, VA 22302

Phone: 703 305-2246

Fax: 703 305-2921

RIN: 0584-AC61**237. • DEFINITION OF FEDERAL MEANS-TESTED PUBLIC BENEFIT****Priority:** Other Significant**Legal Authority:** PL 104-193**CFR Citation:** None**Legal Deadline:** None**Abstract:** Definition of Federal means-tested public benefit. (97-010)**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** State, Local**Agency Contact:** Sheri Ackerman, Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 308, Alexandria, VA 22302

Phone: 703 305-2246

Fax: 703 305-2921

RIN: 0584-AC62

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)
Completed Actions
**238. FOOD STAMP PROGRAM:
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR
VICTIMS OF DISASTERS**

Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 271; 7 CFR 272; 7 CFR 273; 7 CFR 274; 7 CFR 280

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Withdrawn	02/29/96	

Small Entities Affected: Governmental Jurisdictions, Organizations

Government Levels Affected: State, Local, Federal

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman
Phone: 703 305-2246
Fax: 703 305-2921

RIN: 0584-AA85

**239. FOOD DISTRIBUTION
PROGRAMS—PAPERWORK
REDUCTION**

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 250; 7 CFR 251; 7 CFR 253

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	10/16/97	62 FR 53727
Final Action Effective	11/17/97	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses, Governmental Jurisdictions, Organizations

Government Levels Affected: State, Local, Tribal

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AB27

**240. COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL
FOOD PROGRAM: ELDERLY-ONLY
SITES, ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDING,
REFERRALS TO HEALTH AND
SOCIAL SERVICES, CASELOAD
ALLOCATION PROCESS, PRIORITY
SYSTEM, AND MISCELLANEOUS**

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 247

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Withdrawn - Superseded by RIN 0584-AC60	12/08/97	62 FR 64511

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: State, Local

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AB37

**241. CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD
PROGRAM: CHILD NUTRITION AND
WIC REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1989
AND OTHER AMENDMENTS**

Priority: Other Significant

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 226

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	05/01/97	62 FR 23613
Final Action Effective	06/02/97	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: State, Local

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AC07

**242. SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL
NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN,
INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC):
INFANT FORMULA COST
CONTAINMENT REQUIREMENTS**

Priority: Other Significant

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 246

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Withdrawn - Incorporated Into RIN 0584-AC55	09/30/97	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: State, Local, Tribal

Procurement: This is a procurement-related action for which there is a statutory requirement. There is no paperwork burden associated with this action.

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AC33

**243. REVISION OF THE
REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR
FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS
AND FREE MILK IN SCHOOLS**

Priority: Other Significant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing

Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 245

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Withdrawn Pending Further Consideration	01/26/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: State, Local

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AC36

**244. IMPROVED TARGETING OF DAY
CARE HOME REIMBURSEMENTS IN
THE CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD
PROGRAM**

Priority: Economically Significant. Major under 5 USC 801.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 210; 7 CFR 226

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	02/24/98	63 FR 9087
Final Action Effective	04/27/98	

Small Entities Affected: Organizations

Government Levels Affected: State

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman
Phone: 703 305-2246

RIN: 0584-AC42

**245. FOOD STAMP PROGRAM:
MAXIMUM ALLOTMENTS FOR THE 48
STATES AND DC**

Priority: Info./Admin./Other

CFR Citation: None

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	12/08/97	62 FR 64557

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: State, Local, Federal

Agency Contact: Sheri Ackerman
Phone: 703 305-2246
Fax: 703 305-2921

RIN: 0584-AC57

USDA—FNS

Completed Actions

246. FOOD STAMP PROGRAM: MAXIMUM ALLOTMENTS FOR ALASKA, HAWAII, GUAM, AND THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**Priority:** Info./Admin./Other**CFR Citation:** None**Completed:**

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	12/08/97	62 FR 64556
Final Action Effective	12/08/97	

Small Entities Affected: Organizations**Government Levels Affected:** State, Tribal, Federal**Agency Contact:** Sheri Ackerman
Phone: 703 305-2246
Fax: 703 305-2921**RIN:** 0584-AC58**247. • COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM—CASELOAD ASSIGNMENT****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Legal Authority:** 7 USC 612c**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 247**Legal Deadline:** None**Abstract:** This direct final rule amends provisions of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program regulations to provide for the allocation of a single caseload to State agencies each year instead of the allocation of two separate caseloads, one for women, infants, and children, and one for the elderly. (97-008)**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Direct Final Rule	10/23/97	62 FR 55142
Final Action Effective	12/08/97	62 FR 64511

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** Sheri Ackerman, Agency Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 308, Alexandria, VA 22302
Phone: 703 305-2246
Fax: 703 305-2921**RIN:** 0584-AC60**BILLING CODE** 3410-30-F

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Prerule Stage

Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)

248. HAZARD ANALYSIS AND CRITICAL CONTROL POINT (HACCP) SYSTEMS FOR EGG PRODUCTS**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Legal Authority:** 21 USC 1031 to 1056**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 355; 7 CFR 359**Legal Deadline:** None**Abstract:** The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is considering amending the egg products inspection regulations to require egg products plants to develop and implement sanitation standard operating procedures (SOP's) and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) systems. FSIS also is considering converting current prescriptive egg products processing requirements to performance standards, as well as establishing pathogen reduction performance standards applicable to pasteurized egg products.

With this notice, FSIS is soliciting information specific to the costs and benefits of requiring plants to implement sanitation SOP's and HACCP systems. FSIS also is interested in reviewing any research concerning pathogen reduction in egg products, as well as any epidemiological information relevant to pathogens in egg products.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined**Government Levels Affected:** Undetermined**Agency Contact:** Robert Hasiak, Labeling, Product, and Technology Standards Division, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202 501-7615**RIN:** 0583-AC30**249. • ELIMINATION OF ACCREDITED LABORATORY PROGRAM FOR FOOD CHEMISTRY AND RESIDUE CHEMISTRY****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will eliminate existing text in the CFR.**Legal Authority:** 21 USC 601; 21 USC 451**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 318.21; 9 CFR 381.153**Legal Deadline:** None**Abstract:** FSIS is proposing to eliminate its Accredited Laboratory Program (ALP). The ALP was established in 1987 to enable meat and poultry establishments to obtain timely analytic results for product suspected of noncompliance with regulatory requirements (9 CFR 318.21 and 381.153). In such "hold-and-test" situations, plants can have samples

analyzed by laboratories accredited by FSIS for certain residue chemistry analyses (e.g., chlorinated by hydrocarbons) and/or four food chemistry analyses (protein, moisture, fat, and salt content). These analyses by accredited laboratories are paid for by the meat or poultry plant, whereas samples analyzed by FSIS laboratories are at Agency expense. Despite this, accredited laboratories appeal to industry because there are only three FSIS laboratories and they carry a heavy analytic burden. Product held for testing is highly perishable, and obtaining rapid test results is frequently a high priority for plants. FSIS believes, however, that the ALP is no longer the best way to provide this service to industry and the public and that its functions would be better performed by independent third-party accredited laboratory results for whatever reasons can consult and independent, third party accreditation service to determine if a specific laboratory meets appropriate standards.

Such standards are increasingly being harmonized internationally as a result of widespread adoption of the ISO 9000 Series of Standards for quality evaluation of industry performance (the ISO 9000 Standard for analytic laboratories is contained in Guideline 25). The European Community, for example, has recently required that quality systems of many suppliers of products related to health, safety, and

USDA—FSIS

Prerule Stage

the environment be formally registered by a third party according to the ISO 9000 Standards. Moreover, such accreditation can be performed by third parties at a lower cost than the FSIS ALP, which charges each laboratory \$2500 per year. Eliminating the ALP would not cause any additional expense or burden for industry, and it would place the responsibility on industry to obtain credible sample results for whatever purposes. FSIS will request comment on this proposed action.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	06/00/98	
ANPRM Comment	08/00/98	
Period End		

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Patricia Stolfa, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Regulations Development and Analyst Division, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Office of Policy, Program Development, and Evaluation, Washington, DC 20250-3700

Phone: 202 205-0699

RIN: 0583-AC48

250. • SALMONELLA ENTERITIS IN SHELL EGGS AND EGG PRODUCTS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

Legal Authority: 21 USC 601 et seq; 21 USC 451 et seq

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 59; 21 CFR 100

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: FSIS is initiating action to decrease the food safety risks associated with shell eggs and egg products through joint issuance of a notice with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Eggs contaminated with Salmonella enteritidis (SE) are associated with increasing numbers of human illnesses and continue to be a public health concern. Although FDA has primary jurisdiction over shell eggs, the two agencies share inspection responsibility for eggs and egg products. A 1991 amendment to the Egg Products Inspection Act (EPIA)

directed FSIS to develop regulations requiring shell eggs packed for consumers to be kept refrigerated during commercial transportation and storage. FSIS did not implement the temperature requirements because such requirements did not address basic food safety problems for all perishable products. Through joint issuance of the ANPRM, FSIS and FDA are exploring all alternatives and gathering data on the costs and benefits of various regulatory approaches.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

Government Levels Affected: Undetermined

Agency Contact: Connie Suwalsky, Program Analyst, Regulations and Inspection, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Office of Policy Development and Evaluation, Washington, DC 20250-3700
Phone: 202 720-7325

RIN: 0583-AC52

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Proposed Rule Stage

Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)

251. ELIMINATION OF PRIOR APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS FOR EGG PRODUCT PLANT DRAWINGS, SPECIFICATIONS, AND EQUIPMENT

Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 7 USC 1621 et seq; 7 USC 1031 to 1056 Egg Products Inspection Act

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 55; 7 CFR 59

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is proposing to amend the Federal egg products inspection regulations by removing current requirements for prior approval by FSIS of establishment drawings, specifications, and prior to the

construction or remodeling of official establishments. Requirements involving the comparison of blueprints and specifications with actual facilities and equipment would end. FSIS would continue to verify through inspection that good sanitation is being achieved. This action is taken to streamline and modernize the egg products food safety regulations, to separate the roles of Government and the regulated industry, to encourage innovations that will improve food safety, and to remove unnecessary regulatory burdens on inspected egg establishments. In addition, the proposal represents an important shift away from FSIS's "command-and-control" regulatory approach and toward a less bureaucratic approach consistent with the Agency's food safety mission.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	01/00/99	
NPRM Comment	03/00/99	
Period End		

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Patricia Stolfa, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Regulations and Inspection, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Washington, DC 20250-3700
Phone: 202 205-0699

RIN: 0583-AC06

252. GRANT AND INAUGURATION OF INSPECTION

Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 21 USC 601 et seq

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 304; 9 CFR 305

USDA—FSIS

Proposed Rule Stage

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: FSIS is proposing to streamline and clarify the regulations in 9 CFR parts 304 and 305, which provide for grant and inauguration of inspection in meat and poultry establishments.

Under the current regulations, prior to commercial operation, establishments must apply for grant of inspection by submitting for FSIS review and approval establishment floor plans and blueprints, equipment specifications, and other information. If FSIS approves this information and grants inspection, a circuit supervisor visits the establishment to inform the operator of the applicable regulations. Subsequently, FSIS inspection is inaugurated and the establishment may begin manufacturing product for commercial distribution.

FSIS is proposing to streamline and clarify these requirements in light of (1) new section 304.3, under which compliance with requirements in the Agency's regulations on sanitation standard operating procedures and hazard analysis and critical control point systems (parts 416 and 417) are conditions for receiving inspection, and (2) final action on the Agency's proposal (Docket No. 95-032P) to eliminate the requirement that floor plans, blueprints, equipment specifications be preapproved by FSIS before inspection is granted.

This rule will amend FSIS's regulations to describe, in part 300, the Agency's responsibilities and current organization. As part of its regulatory modernization initiative, FSIS has reorganized its headquarters offices and field structure, and it is reorganizing and amending its regulations to reflect these and other changes in the Agency's responsibilities. This rule will provide information on the location of FSIS's new field offices and the reassignment of regulatory activities under the Federal Meat Inspection Act, and the Poultry Products Inspection Act, and the Egg Products Inspection Act.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

Government Levels Affected: Undetermined

Agency Contact: Patricia Stolfa, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Regulations and Inspection, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202 205-0699

RIN: 0583-AC07

253. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF CERTAIN MEAT AND POULTRY PRODUCTS WITH ESTABLISHED STANDARDS OF IDENTITY

Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 21 USC 451 et seq; 21 USC 601 et seq

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 319; 9 CFR 381

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is proposing to amend the Federal meat and poultry inspection regulations by establishing food safety performance standards for certain raw, partially cooked, and ready-to-eat meat and poultry products listed in 9 CFR 319. Performance standards spell out the objective level of performance establishments must meet during their operations to produce safe products, but allow the use of customized, plant-specific processing procedures. The standards of identity or composition in part 319 define these products in terms of meat and poultry content, ingredients, methods of processing and preparation, or other characteristics relative to product content, representation, and labeling. However, currently there are few food safety standards or requirements specific to the processing or handling of these products in the regulations. FSIS must rely upon statutory authorities, general regulations, regulations for similar products, or FSIS directives when regulating these products. Establishing food safety performance standards specific to these products would provide FSIS with a better regulatory mechanism for ensuring their safety and would grant

establishments flexibility to comply with the new requirements.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

Government Levels Affected: Undetermined

Agency Contact: Patricia Stolfa, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Regulations and Inspection, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Washington, DC 20250-3700
Phone: 202 205-0699

RIN: 0583-AC18

254. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR THE THERMAL PROCESSING OF MEAT AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 21 USC 451 et seq; 21 USC 601 et seq

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 318; 9 CFR 381

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: FSIS is proposing to replace the current, "command-and-control" procedures for the thermal processing of meat and poultry products with performance standards. The current regulations are highly prescriptive, redundant with HACCP, and inhibit the adoption by the industry of new, more efficient technologies. The proposed performance standards, which spell out the objective level of performance establishments must meet during their operations, would permit the use of alternative processing procedures by establishments. Establishments would be required to develop written process schedules describing their alternative procedures, but could incorporate these schedules into their HACCP plans. FSIS would allow establishments that do not develop alternative procedures to follow the current regulations, which would be retained as "safe harbors."

USDA—FSIS

Proposed Rule Stage

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined**Government Levels Affected:**
Undetermined**Agency Contact:** Patricia Stolfa,
Assistant Deputy Administrator,
Regulations and Inspection, Department
of Agriculture, Food Safety and
Inspection Service, Washington, DC
20250-3700
Phone: 202 205-0699**RIN:** 0583-AC19**255. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS
FOR THE HANDLING, CHILLING, AND
FREEZING OF POULTRY****Priority:** Other Significant. Major status
under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.**Unfunded Mandates:** Undetermined**Reinventing Government:** This
rulemaking is part of the Reinventing
Government effort. It will revise text in
the CFR to reduce burden or
duplication, or streamline
requirements.**Legal Authority:** 21 USC 451 et seq**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 381**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: FSIS is proposing to replace the current "command-and-control" procedures for the handling, chilling, and freezing of poultry products in 9 CFR 381.66 with performance standards. The current regulations are highly prescriptive, redundant with HACCP, and inhibit the adoption by the industry of new, more efficient technologies. The proposed performance standards, which spell out the objective level of performance establishments must meet during their operations, would permit the use of alternative procedures, but could incorporate these schedules into their HACCP plans. FSIS would allow establishments that do not develop alternative procedures to follow the current regulations, which would be retained as "safe harbors."

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined**Government Levels Affected:**
Undetermined**Agency Contact:** Patricia Stolfa,
Assistant Deputy Administrator,
Regulations and Inspection, Department
of Agriculture, Food Safety and
Inspection Service, Washington, DC
20250

Phone: 202 205-0699

RIN: 0583-AC21**256. PREVENTION OF PHYSICAL OR
CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION OF
MEAT AND POULTRY PRODUCTS OR
PRODUCT INGREDIENTS****Priority:** Other Significant. Major status
under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.**Unfunded Mandates:** Undetermined**Reinventing Government:** This
rulemaking is part of the Reinventing
Government effort. It will revise text in
the CFR to reduce burden or
duplication, or streamline
requirements.**Legal Authority:** 21 USC 451 et seq;
21 USC 601 et seq**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 318; 9 CFR 381**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: FSIS is proposing to replace with performance standards the current regulations ensuring that meat and poultry products and product ingredients are not physically or chemically contaminated. Performance standards spell out the objective level of performance establishments must meet during their operations to produce safe products, but allow the use of customized, plant-specific processing procedures. Under requirements for mandatory establishment-operated HACCP systems, the performance standards and establishment-developed procedures could be a part of establishment HACCP plans. FSIS would allow establishments that do not develop alternative procedures to follow the current regulations, which would be retained as "safe harbors."

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined**Government Levels Affected:**
Undetermined**Agency Contact:** Patricia Stolfa,
Assistant Deputy Administrator,
Regulations and Inspection, Department
of Agriculture, Food Safety and
Inspection Service, Washington, DC
20250-3700

Phone: 202 205-0699

RIN: 0583-AC22**257. RETAINED WATER IN RAW MEAT
AND POULTRY PRODUCTS; POULTRY
CHILLING PERFORMANCE
STANDARDS****Priority:** Other Significant. Major status
under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.**Unfunded Mandates:** Undetermined**Reinventing Government:** This
rulemaking is part of the Reinventing
Government effort. It will revise text in
the CFR to reduce burden or
duplication, or streamline
requirements.**Legal Authority:** 21 USC 451 et seq**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 317; 9 CFR 381;
9 CFR 440**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: FSIS is developing a proposal to limit the amount of water absorbed and retained by single-ingredient raw meat and poultry products to the amount that is unavoidable in carrying out washing or chilling procedures. Such products include immersion-chilled poultry carcasses and raw meat byproducts that are chilled in water. A requirement for raw products to bear a labeling statement on absorbed water content is being considered. However, establishments having data that demonstrate their raw products do not gain weight as a result of washing or chilling would not have to label the products with such a statement. The proposal also would replace the command-and-control provisions of the regulations on poultry chilling and moisture control with performance standards. This proposal is being made in furtherance of the Agency's regulatory reform effort and in response to a July 23, 1997, U.S. District Court order setting aside current moisture limits for frozen, cooked, or consumer-packaged whole poultry. The labeling provisions of this proposal would be intended to provide consumers with additional information for making purchasing decisions.

Affected establishments would have to bear the minimal costs associated with any required labeling modifications.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

USDA—FSIS

Proposed Rule Stage

Government Levels Affected:
Undetermined

Agency Contact: Alice Thaler, Chief, Concepts and Design Branch, Inspection Methods Design and Development Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Division, Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202 720-3219
RIN: 0583-AC26

258. PERFORMANCE STANDARD FOR CARCASSES CUT INTO PRIMAL PARTS WITHIN AN ESTABLISHMENT

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 21 USC 601

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 381

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is proposing to amend the Federal meat inspection regulations to permit inspected and passed, but unmarked, carcasses to be cut into primal parts within the establishment as long as the establishment is operating under a HACCP system which includes a process control component to prevent the commingling of inspected and uninspected product. Product identification and control, and a system of recordkeeping and monitoring are essential elements of any HACCP system. An adequate HACCP system would ensure that identification and appropriate separation of inspected and uninspected product would be maintained.

This action would be in keeping with FSIS's move away from "command-and-control" regulations toward HACCP-compatible performance standards, which afford establishments greater latitude in choosing how to meet performance objectives, for example, ensuring segregation inspected and uninspected product. FSIS is proposing this action in response to a petition.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	01/00/99	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

Government Levels Affected:
Undetermined

Agency Contact: Patricia Stolfa, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Regulations and Inspection, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Washington, DC
Phone: 202 205-0699

RIN: 0583-AC27

259. ELIMINATION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTIAL QUALITY CONTROL PROGRAMS

Priority: Other Significant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will eliminate existing text in the CFR.

Legal Authority: 21 USC 451 et seq; 21 USC 601 et seq

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 317; 9 CFR 318; 9 CFR 319; 9 CFR 381

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This proposed rule would amend the meat and poultry inspection regulations by removing most requirements pertaining to partial quality control (PQC) programs. A PQC program controls a single product, operation, or part of an operation in a meat or poultry establishment. The proposal would remove the design requirements affecting most PQC programs that establishments have and most requirements for establishments to have PQC programs for certain products or processes. The proposal would also remove from the thermal processing regulations the requirements for FSIS prior approval, or approval before use, of systems and devices not specified in the regulations and all requirements concerning PQC programs. The proposal would expand the alternatives available to establishments under the thermal processing regulations for ensuring the safety of their products. However, the requirements for establishments to have quality control programs to control food irradiation processing and certain slaughtering inspection systems for poultry and the requirements concerning the design and content of those programs would be unaffected by this rulemaking. This

proposal is intended to allow establishments under inspection additional flexibility, consistent with the Pathogen Reduction/Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) regulations, to adopt new technologies and methods that will improve food safety and other consumer protections.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	08/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses

Government Levels Affected: State, Federal

Agency Contact: Patricia Stolfa, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Inspection Methods Design and Development, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Washington, DC 20250-3700
Phone: 202 205-0699

RIN: 0583-AC35

260. ELIMINATION OF PRIOR APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PROPRIETARY SUBSTANCES AND NONFOOD COMPOUNDS

Priority: Other Significant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 7 USC 450; 21 USC 601

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 308.3; 9 CFR 308.7; 9 CFR 308.8; 9 CFR 318.15; 9 CFR 381.60; 9 CFR 381.147

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: FSIS is announcing that it is eliminating the prior approval system for all nonfood compounds and proprietary substances and requesting comment on alternatives to the current prior approval system. The compounds and substances currently subject to prior approval include maintenance and operating chemicals (sanitizers, cleaning compounds, water treatments, lubricants, and pesticides) and proprietary food processing chemicals (branding inks, scalding agents, rendering agents, and denaturants). Similarly, FSIS recently proposed to eliminate the sanitation regulations

USDA—FSIS

Proposed Rule Stage

requiring prior approval of some of these compounds and substances (contained in 9 CFR parts 308 and 381, subpart H).

This prior approval program is inconsistent with the new food safety strategy and approach set forth in FSIS Docket No. 93-016F, "Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) systems" (61 FR 38806). Under these new regulations, every official meat and poultry establishment will be required to develop and implement HACCP, a science-based process control system designed to improve the safety of meat and poultry products. Establishments will be responsible for developing and implementing HACCP plans incorporating the controls necessary and appropriate to produce safe meat and poultry products. Consequently, establishments, not FSIS, will be responsible for determining whether the nonfood compounds and proprietary substances they use are safe and effective. FSIS will, of course, continue to require that meat and poultry products be neither adulterated nor misbranded through the misuse of proprietary additives and nonfood compounds.

FSIS receives annually between 16,000 and 20,000 applications for approval of nonfood compounds and proprietary substances. By terminating the prior approval program for nonfood compounds and proprietary substances and discontinuing publication of the List, FSIS will be able to redirect resources to better implement inspection under the HACCP regulations. FSIS anticipates that establishments considering purchasing and using nonfood compounds and proprietary substances will demand formulation and other information from chemical manufacturers as part of their decision-making in the private marketplace. Manufacturers failing to provide such information could expect to lose their market share.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/00/98	
Notice of Policy Change Nonfood Compounds and Proprietary Substances	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected:
Undetermined

Agency Contact: Patricia Stolfa, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Regulations and Inspection, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Washington, DC 20250-3700
Phone: 202 205-0699
RIN: 0583-AC37

261. • LABELING STANDARDS FOR OVINE CARCASSES, PARTS OF CARCASSES MEAT AND MEAT FOOD PRODUCTS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Unfunded Mandates: This action may affect the private sector under PL 104-4.

Legal Authority: 7 USC 450 et seq; 21 USC 601 to 695 et seq; 7 USC 1901 to 1906 et seq

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 319

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: Pursuant to a requirement in the Farm Bill of 1996, the Food Safety and Inspection Service is issuing advance notice of proposed rulemaking to determine the type of labeling standards it should establish for lambs and mutton. The principal issue of concern in the marketing of sheep is the identification, for the benefit of consumers, of the higher valued lamb from the lower valued mutton. One of the key elements of this issue is the attributes of lamb that gives it this higher value, such as flavor, texture, moisture, color, mouth feel, or portion size. Among the subissues to be considered are: should the Agency consider reissuing voluntary grading standards analogous to the recent Agricultural Marketing Service ones for slaughter animals and for carcasses; should these standards continue to be voluntary; should they embrace the detail of the previous standards, including the standards for yearling mutton; should the standards include anything from the slaughter animal standards or just use the carcass and parts standards; what method of determining maturity should the standards employ; what are the economic or other regulatory impacts of such a standard; should the terms "no-roll lamb" or "yearling lamb" or "spring lamb" be made part of the

standard; how should the government assure the integrity of establishment application of the standard; and, finally, should the Agency establish labeling standards, such as that lamb must be under one year of age, and then require operators of official establishments establish their own objective methods to separate carcasses for which the label "Lamb" may be claimed from other ovine carcasses for which it may not.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

Government Levels Affected:
Undetermined

Agency Contact: Alfred Liepold, Food Technologist, Regulations Development, Analyst Division, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Office Of Policy, Program, Development, and Evaluation, Washington, DC 20250-3700
Phone: 202 205-0292

RIN: 0583-AC41

262. • ANTE-MORTEM AND POST-MORTEM INSPECTION OF LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 21 USC 601 to 695 et seq; 7 USC 138 et seq; 21 USC 450 et seq; 7 USC 2.18 to 2.53 et seq; 21 USC 451 to 470 et seq

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 309; 9 CFR 310; 9 CFR 381

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: FSIS is proposing to reform the regulations governing ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection of livestock and poultry. A number of the current regulations are no longer appropriate for the conditions under which meat and poultry products are produced and distributed today (e.g., splitting of sterna, prohibition of inflating carcasses). Others are duplicative regulations (e.g., those

USDA—FSIS

Proposed Rule Stage

dealing with bruises and contamination) applying separately to meat and to poultry that could be combined into single regulations applying to both meat and poultry. Most emphasize the procedures for achieving regulatory objectives rather than the objectives themselves. This proposal would remove these prescriptive, detailed, or obsolete regulations or convert them to performance standards that are consistent with FSIS requirements for establishment-operated hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) systems and with the Agency's food safety regulatory strategy.

Under the proposal, the current ante-mortem requirements, listing objectionable diseases or conditions and corresponding actions to be taken, would be replaced by performance standards intended to ensure that only "normal," healthy animals that do not pose an evident hazard to public health are permitted to enter a slaughtering establishment. "Normal" animals would include those, for example, that are not running a temperature or that do not exhibit lesions of disease or behaviors characteristic of central nervous system disorders. Similarly, the post-mortem regulations, with their lists of conditions and detailed, command-and-control procedures, would be streamlined. The prescriptive provisions would be replaced by performance standards relating to food safety (Prevention of economic adulteration).

This proposal would also recodify the ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection regulations for livestock and poultry. To the extent possible, consistent with Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act, regulations concerning livestock and meat carcasses and parts, and those concerning poultry carcasses and parts would be designated to the same parts and sections of the Code of Federal Regulations. These changes would be part of the on-going Agency effort to make the regulations more streamlined and user-friendly.

This proposal would focus on the performance standards that establishments should meet through operation of their HACCP systems for slaughtering and dressing operations. It would remove impediments to the development and operation of HACCP plans by making the current regulations

compatible with the HACCP approach to food safety.

Besides the proposed action, FSIS considered the alternative of no rulemaking and the alternative of eliminating all regulations on livestock, poultry, and the carcasses and parts of livestock and poultry, affected by specific diseases and conditions. The first alternative would leave in place numerous detailed prescriptions and procedural requirements inconsistent with, or duplicative of, HACCP systems. The second would risk exposing the public to products that may be unwholesome or otherwise adulterated.

The Agency believes the alternative represented by this proposal—converting to performance standards the ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection regulations—would offer the best prospect for the efficient and effective implementation of HACCP. It would also maximize the flexibility establishments have to adopt technological innovations that would increase the assurance of food safety.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	11/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses

Government Levels Affected: State

Agency Contact: Alice Thaler, Chief, Concepts and Design Branch, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Inspection Methods Development Division, Office of Policy, Program Development, and Evaluation, Washington, DC 20250-3700
Phone: 202 720-3219

RIN: 0583-AC43

263. • REQUIREMENTS FOR DISPOSITION AND DISPOSAL OF INSPECTED RAW MEAT AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will eliminate existing text in the CFR.

Legal Authority: 7 USC 450, 1901 to 1906; 21 USC 451 to 470 et seq; 21 USC 601 to 695 et seq

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 311; 9 CFR 314; 9 CFR 320; 9 CFR 325; 9 CFR 381; 9 CFR 428; 9 CFR 455

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: FSIS is proposing to reform the regulations governing the disposition of inspected raw meat and poultry products and the disposal of such products that are condemned or otherwise inedible. A number of the current regulations are no longer appropriate for the conditions under which meat and poultry products are produced and distributed today. Others are duplicative regulations applying separately to meat and to poultry that should be combined into single regulations applying to both meat and poultry. Most emphasize the procedures for achieving regulatory objectives rather than the objectives themselves. The proposal would remove these prescriptive, detailed, or obsolete regulations or convert them to performance standards that are consistent with FSIS requirements for establishment-operated hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) systems and with the Agency's food safety regulatory strategy.

Besides the proposed action, FSIS considered the alternative of no rulemaking and the alternative of eliminating all regulations on the disposition and disposal of inspected raw products. Among these regulations are those concerning the handling of raw product moving between official establishments and the disposal of condemned or inedible carcasses and parts. The first alternative would leave in place numerous detailed prescriptions and procedural requirements inconsistent with, or duplicative of, HACCP systems. The second would risk exposing the public to products that may be unwholesome or otherwise adulterated.

This proposal would convert to performance standards the regulations governing the disposition, handling, and disposal of raw carcasses and parts. The Agency believes this alternative would offer the best prospect of permitting the efficient and effective implementation of HACCP and of maximizing the flexibility official establishments and other entities have to adopt technological and other innovations that could increase the assurance of food safety.

This proposal would also recodify the regulations on the disposition,

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handling, and disposal of raw meat and poultry products. To the extent possible, consistent with the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act, regulations affecting both meat and poultry would be designated to the same parts and sections of the Code of Federal Regulations. These changes would be part of the on-going Agency effort to make the regulations more streamlined and user-friendly.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	11/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses

Government Levels Affected: State

Agency Contact: Alice Thaler, Chief, Concepts and Design Branch, Inspection Methods Development Division, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Office of Policy, Program Development, and Evaluation, Washington, DC 20250-3700

Phone: 202 720-3219

RIN: 0583-AC44

264. • PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR SHELF-STABLE, READY-TO-EAT PRODUCTS

Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Legal Authority: 21 USC 451 et seq; 21 USC 601 et seq

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 317; 9 CFR 381

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is proposing to amend the Federal meat and poultry inspection regulations by establishing food safety performance standards for shelf-stable, ready-to-eat meat and poultry products. The proposed performance standards spell out the objective level of pathogen reduction meat and poultry establishments must meet during their operations in order to produce safe products, but allow the use of customized, plant-specific processing procedures. Although FSIS routinely samples and tests some shelf-stable, ready-to-eat products for the presence of pathogens prior to distribution, currently there are no specific regulatory requirements for pathogen reduction in place for these products. Further, a 1994 outbreak of disease linked to consumption of dry

fermented salami contaminated with the pathogen *E. coli* 0157:H7 indicates a need for performance standards for these products. The proposed performance standards would improve the safety of these products, give establishments the incentive and flexibility to adopt innovative, science-based food safety processing procedures and controls, and provide objective, measurable standards that can be verified by Agency inspectional oversight.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

Government Levels Affected: Undetermined

Agency Contact: Patricia Stolfa, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Regulations and Inspection, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Office of Policy, Program Development, and Evaluation, Washington, DC 20250-3700

Phone: 202 205-0699

RIN: 0583-AC45

265. • PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR PERISHABLE, READY-TO-EAT PRODUCTS

Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

Legal Authority: 21 USC 451 et seq; 21 USC 601 et seq

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 317; 9 CFR 381; 9 CFR 430

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: FSIS is proposing to establish pathogen reduction performance standards for all perishable, ready-to-eat meat and poultry products. The performance standards spell out the objective level of pathogen reduction that establishments must meet during their operations in order to produce safe products, but allow the use of customized, plant-specific processing procedures other than those prescribed in the earlier regulations. Along with HACCP, food safety performance standards will give establishments the incentive and flexibility to adopt innovative, science-based food safety processing procedures and controls, while providing objective, measurable standards that can be verified by

Agency inspectional oversight. This set of performance standards will include and be consistent with those soon to be in place for ready-to-eat poultry products.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

Government Levels Affected: Undetermined

Agency Contact: Patricia Stolfa, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Regulations and Inspection, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Office of Policy, Program Development, and Evaluation, Washington, DC 20250-3700

Phone: 202 205-0699

RIN: 0583-AC46

266. • PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR BACON

Priority: Other Significant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will eliminate existing text in the CFR.

Legal Authority: 21 USC 601

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 318.7(b)

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: FSIS is proposing to revise the regulatory provisions concerning the production and testing of bacon (9 CFR 318.7(b)). FSIS is proposing to remove provisions that require the Agency to test bacon for nitrosamines and to remove provisions that prescribe the substances and amounts of such substances that must be used to produce bacon. FSIS is proposing to replace these provisions with performance standards that establishments producing bacon must meet. To meet these proposed performance standards, the process used would be required to prevent a detectable level of *Clostridium botulinum* toxin and limit the multiplication *Clostridium perfringens*. In addition, the process would be required to limit the presence of nitrosamines when the product is cooked.

All establishments using a process not covered under the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system requirements would be required to

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develop and have on file a process schedule documenting the control, monitoring, verification, validation, and corrective action activities associated with bacon production. Once all establishments are operating according to HACCP system requirements, a separate process schedule for producing bacon would no longer be necessary .

The existing regulatory provisions that prescribe the substances and amounts of such substances to be used in producing bacon will be included in an appendix to these proposed regulations as compliance guidelines. If establishments producing bacon follow these compliance guidelines FSIS would consider the establishments to have met the performance standards. If establishments develop new methods of producing bacon using substances and/or amounts not included in the safe harbor examples, they would be required to obtain the approval of a "process authority," a person or organization with expertise in meat production process control and relevant regulations.

FSIS is proposing these regulations in order to allow establishments to develop alternative means of producing bacon. In addition, FSIS is proposing these regulations to remove the Agency's testing responsibilities and to require establishments producing bacon, instead, to control and monitor their own processes.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Patricia F. Stolfa, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Regulations Development and Analyst Division, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Office of Policy, Program Development, and Evaluation, Washington, DC 20250-3700
Phone: 202 205-0699

RIN: 0583-AC49

267. • IRRADIATION OF MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS

Priority: Economically Significant.
Major under 5 USC 801.

Unfunded Mandates: This action may affect the private sector under PL 104-4.

Legal Authority: 7 USC 450; 21 USC 601

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 317; 9 CFR 318; 9 CFR 381

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is proposing to amend the meat inspection regulations to permit the use of ionizing radiation for treating fresh or frozen uncooked meat, meat byproducts, and certain meat food products to reduce levels of pathogens. FSIS is proposing this action in light of the Food and Drug Administration's recent final rule amending the food additive regulations to provide for the safe use of irradiation sources to treat these same meat products. FSIS also is proposing to revise for consistency the current regulations governing the irradiation of poultry.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

Government Levels Affected: Undetermined

Agency Contact: Patricia Stolfa, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Regulations Inspection Methods, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Office of Policy, Program Development, and Evaluation, Washington, DC 20250-3700
Phone: 202 205-0699

RIN: 0583-AC50

268. • MEAT PRODUCED BY ADVANCED MEAT/BONE SEPARATION MACHINERY AND MEAT RECOVERY SYSTEMS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant.
Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

Legal Authority: 21 USC 601 et seq

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 301; 9 CFR 318; 9 CFR 320

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: In 1994, the Food Safety and Inspection Service amended its regulations to recognize that product resulting from advanced meat/bone separation machinery comes within the definition of meat when recovery systems are operated to assure that the characteristics and composition of the resulting product are consistent with those of meat. Subsequent compliance problems and other concerns have made it apparent that the regulations are confusing and inadequate to prevent misbranding and economic adulteration. Therefore, FSIS is developing a proposed rule to clarify the regulations and supplement the rules for assuring compliance.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

Government Levels Affected: Undetermined

Procurement: This is a procurement-related action for which there is no statutory requirement. There is a paperwork burden associated with this action.

Agency Contact: Patricia Stolfa, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Regulations and Inspection, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Office of Policy, Program Development, and Evaluation, Washington, DC 20250-3700
Phone: 202 205-0699

RIN: 0583-AC51

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)
Final Rule Stage
269. REQUIREMENTS FOR FOREIGN COUNTRY IMPORT CERTIFICATION AND LIVE ANIMAL IMPORTATION
Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant**Legal Authority:** PL 99-198**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 327; 9 CFR 381**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: This rule will respond to amendments to the Federal Meat Inspection Act by the Food Security Act of 1985. The amendments require that FSIS periodically certify residue control programs submitted by foreign countries desiring to export meat and poultry products to the United States. The amendments also provide the Secretary with the authority to issue an order prohibiting the importation of livestock for immediate slaughter that have been administered a drug or antibiotic banned for use in the United States.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	07/26/88	53 FR 27998
NPRM Comment Period End	09/26/88	
Reproposal	03/09/90	55 FR 8956
Reproposal Comment Period End	04/09/90	
Final Action	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None

Agency Contact: Charles Williams, Program Analyst, Regulations Development and Analysis Division, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Office of Policy, Program Development, and Evaluation, Washington, DC 20250-3700

Phone: 202 720-6933

RIN: 0583-AA47
270. SUBSTANCES APPROVED FOR USE IN THE PREPARATION OF MEAT FOOD AND POULTRY PRODUCTS
Priority: Other Significant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 21 USC 451 et seq; 21 USC 601 et seq

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 318; 9 CFR 381**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: This rule will amend the Federal meat and poultry products inspection regulations to simplify the procedures by which FSIS approves food additives and Generally Recognized as Safe substances to be used as ingredients in meat food products and poultry products. The proposed rule will be developed in cooperation with the Food and Drug Administration to make the Federal regulation of food additives and other substances that may be used as ingredients in meat food and poultry products more efficient and uniform.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/29/95	60 FR 67459
NPRM Comment Period End	05/06/96	
Final Action	01/00/99	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses**Government Levels Affected:** None

Agency Contact: Patricia Stofa, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Regulations and Inspection, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Washington, DC 20250

Phone: 202 205-0699

RIN: 0583-AB02
271. FOOD STANDARDS: REQUIREMENTS FOR PROCESSED MEAT AND POULTRY PRODUCTS NAMED BY USE OF AN EXPRESSED NUTRIENT CONTENT CLAIM AND A STANDARDIZED TERM

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 21 USC 451 et seq; 21 USC 601 et seq

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 319; 9 CFR 381**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: This proposed rule would amend the Federal meat and poultry regulations to establish a general definition and standard of identity for standardized meat and poultry food products that have been modified to qualify for use of certain expressed

nutrient content claims as part of the product name. These products would be identified by a nutrient content claim, such as "fat free," in conjunction with an appropriate standardized product name, e.g., "fat free frankfurter." The general standard proposes to set requirements that would allow for modified versions of standardized meat and poultry food products, i.e., "substitute standardized products." These products would be formulated and processed with ingredients otherwise not in or in amounts greater than that allowed by FSIS regulatory food standards in 9 CFR parts 319 and 381, subpart P.

FSIS is taking this action to: (1) Assist consumers in maintaining healthy dietary practices by providing for substitute versions of standardized processed meat food and poultry food products that have reductions in certain constituents that are of health concern to consumers, such as fat and cholesterol, (2) increase regulatory flexibility and support product innovation in accord with Executive Orders 12861 and 12866 and with President Clinton's Memorandum to Heads of Departments and Agencies, "Regulatory Reinvention Initiative," dated March 4, 1995, and (3) provide consumers with an informative nutrition labeling system.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/29/95	60 FR 67474
NPRM Comment Period Extended	02/27/96	61 FR 26470
NPRM Comment Period End	11/25/96	
Final Action	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses**Government Levels Affected:** Undetermined

Agency Contact: William Hudnall, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Standards and Methods Review, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Washington, DC 20250

Phone: 202 720-7773

RIN: 0583-AB51
272. NUTRITION LABELING: HEALTH CLAIMS ON MEAT AND POULTRY PRODUCTS
Priority: Other Significant

Legal Authority: 21 USC 601 et seq; 21 USC 451 et seq

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CFR Citation: 9 CFR 317; 9 CFR 381

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This rule will amend the Federal meat and poultry products inspection regulations to permit the use of health claims that characterize the relationship of a substance to a disease-related or health-related condition on labeling of meat and poultry products. The rule will also establish a labeling application process for such health claims. This action stems from the final nutrition labeling regulations.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/25/94	59 FR 27144
NPRM Comment Period End	07/25/94	
Final Action	10/00/98	
Final Action Effective	12/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses

Government Levels Affected: Undetermined

Agency Contact: Charles Edwards, Director, Facilities, Equipment, Labeling and Compounds Review Division, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202 418-8900

RIN: 0583-AB64

273. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR CERTAIN MEAT PRODUCTS AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

Priority: Other Significant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 21 USC 451 et seq; 21 USC 60 et seq

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 301; 9 CFR 318; 9 CFR 320; 9 CFR 381

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is proposing to amend the Federal meat and poultry inspection regulations by converting the current regulations governing the production of cooked beef products, uncured meat patties, and certain poultry products into performance standards. The proposed performance standards spell out the objective level of performance establishments must

meet during their operations in order to produce safe products, but allow the use of plant-specific processing procedures other than the procedures prescribed in the current regulations. All of the provisions in the current regulations meet the proposed performance standards. Therefore, establishments probably would not be required to change any current practices in response to this proposed rule. The current provisions would remain in the regulations as examples of how an establishment might comply with proposed performance standards, constituting "safe harbors."

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/02/96	61 FR 19564
Comment Period Extended to	09/09/96	61 FR 35990
Final Action	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Patricia F. Stolfa, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Regulations and Inspection, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Washington, DC 20250-3700
Phone: 202 205-0699

RIN: 0583-AB94

274. CONTINUOUS CHILLING OF SPLIT POULTRY PORTIONS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Legal Authority: 21 USC 451 et seq

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 381

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: FSIS is amending the poultry products inspection regulations to specify that the continuous immersion chilling of the front or rear portions of transversely split carcasses is permitted. The existing regulations have permitted the continuous chilling of whole carcasses or "major portions," including front or rear portions, resulting from trimming or salvage. This final rule defines "major portions" to include the front or rear portions of transversely split carcasses, without identifying the operation creating the portions. This change will afford additional flexibility to poultry establishments in adopting efficient production techniques, such as on-line carcass splitting, that meet food safety performance standards. This final rule

is compatible with FSIS initiatives addressing fecal contamination and moisture absorption of raw poultry products. FSIS proposed these regulatory amendments June 6, 1997 (62 FR 310). The Agency received six letters commenting on the proposal. Five letters, from meat and poultry processing companies (3) and trade associations (2), supported the proposal. One letter, jointly signed by three livestock producer associations, objected to the proposal.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/06/97	62 FR 31017
NPRM Comment Period End	08/05/97	
Final Action	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Alice M. Thaler, Slaughter Inspection Standards and Procedures Division, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202 720-3219

RIN: 0583-AB95

275. BEEF OR PORK WITH BARBECUE SAUCE; REVISION OF STANDARDS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 21 USC 601 et seq

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 319

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has been petitioned to amend the Federal meat inspection regulations by removing a meat yield requirement for the standardized products "Beef With Barbecue Sauce" and "Pork With Barbecue Sauce." Current regulations for these products require that the product contain not less than 50 percent of the species identified on the label, and that the weight of the cooked pork or beef not exceed 70 percent of the uncooked weight of the meat. The

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first requirement is consistent with other meat and sauce requirements, but the second requirement is not. The petitioner asserts that the product standard (promulgated in 1952) does not reflect current production practices or the commercial marketability of beef or pork with barbecue sauce. The petitioner further states that producers of these products are at a competitive disadvantage with other meat and sauce producers, because other meat and sauce producers do not have a 70 percent yield requirement. For example, producers of the standardized products "Beef with Gravy," "Meat Pies," and "Spaghetti with Meat and Sauce" and similar standardized products do not have any meat yield requirements.

FSIS has determined that the petitioner's request should be granted. This action would permit fair competition between meat and barbecue sauce producers, and poultry and sauce producers, and would provide consistent requirements in both the meat and poultry inspection regulations.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	09/03/97	62 FR 46450
NPRM Comment Period End	11/03/97	
Interim Final Rule	10/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

Government Levels Affected: Undetermined

Agency Contact: William Hudnall, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Standards and Methods Review, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Washington, DC 20250-3700
Phone: 202 720-7773

RIN: 0583-AC09

276. NUTRITION LABELING; REFERENCE DAILY INTAKES

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Legal Authority: 21 USC 451 et seq; 21 USC 601 et seq

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 317; 9 CFR 381

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is proposing to amend the list of Reference Daily Intakes (RDI's) in the Federal meat and poultry products inspection regulations

by adding RDI values for vitamin K, selenium, manganese, chromium, molybdenum, and chloride. FSIS is also proposing to modify the units of measure for the RDI values for calcium, folate, biotin, and phosphorus. This action would provide consistency between the Food and Drug Administration's and FSIS's nutrition labeling requirements.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/13/96	61 FR 65490
NPRM Comment Period End	02/11/97	
Final Action	10/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: Undetermined

Agency Contact: William Hudnall, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Standards and Method Review, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Washington, DC 20250-3700
Phone: 202 720-7773

RIN: 0583-AC15

277. ADDITION OF MEXICO TO LIST OF COUNTRIES ELIGIBLE TO EXPORT POULTRY PRODUCTS TO THE UNITED STATES

Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

Legal Authority: 7 USC 138f; 7 USC 450; 21 USC 451; 21 USC 470

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 196

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is proposing to add Mexico to the list of countries eligible to export poultry products listed in the Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA) into the United States. Reviews of Mexico's laws, regulations, and other materials indicate that its poultry processing system is acceptable under the PPIA and its implementing regulations. Poultry slaughtered in Mexico would not be permitted to be imported into the United States. Only poultry products that have been slaughtered in federally inspected establishments in the United States and processed in certified Mexican establishments would be permitted to be imported into the United States. This action would enable

processed poultry products from certified processing establishments in Mexico to be imported into the United States.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	11/26/97	62 FR 63284
NPRM Comment Period End	01/27/98	
Final Action	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Patricia Stolfa, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Regulations and Inspection, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Washington, DC 20250-3700
Phone: 202 205-0699

RIN: 0583-AC33

278. RULES OF PRACTICE

Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will eliminate existing text in the CFR.

Legal Authority: 21 USC 601; 21 USC 451

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 304; 9 CFR 305; 9 CFR 306; 9 CFR 327; 9 CFR 335; 9 CFR 381; 9 CFR 460

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is proposing to revise and consolidate the regulations that address the rules of practice FSIS follows when inspection services are refused, suspended, or withdrawn. FSIS is proposing to add specific language regarding the refusal, suspension, or withdrawal of inspection when the Agency determines that an establishment's Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) system is inadequate, an establishment is not meeting the Salmonella pathogen reduction performance standards, an establishment's Sanitation Standard Operating Procedure is inadequate, or an establishment is not conducting generic E. coli testing. Additionally, FSIS proposes to revise and consolidate the regulations regarding the procedures for appealing Agency decisions.

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Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	01/12/98	63 FR 1797
NPRM Comment Period End	03/13/98	
Final Action	06/00/98	
Final Action Effective	07/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses

Government Levels Affected: Federal

Agency Contact: Patricia Stofa, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Regulations and Inspection, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Washington, DC 20240-3700
Phone: 202 205-0699

RIN: 0583-AC34

279. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF CERTAIN MEAT AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

Priority: Other Significant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 21 USC 451 et seq; 21 USC 601 et seq

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 301; 9 CFR 317; 9 CFR 318; 9 CFR 320; 9 CFR 381

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: FSIS is converting into pathogen reduction performance standards the regulations governing the production of cooked beef, roast beef, and cooked corned beef products; partially cooked and char-marked meat patties, and certain fully and partially cooked poultry products.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/02/96	61 FR 19564
NPRM Comment Period End	09/09/96	
Final Action	10/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses

Government Levels Affected: Federal

Agency Contact: Patricia Stofa, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Regulations and Inspection, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Washington, DC 20250-3700
Phone: 202 205-0699

RIN: 0583-AC38

280. SANITATION REQUIREMENTS FOR OFFICIAL MEAT AND POULTRY ESTABLISHMENTS

Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 21 USC 451 et seq; 21 USC 601 et seq

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 303; 9 CFR 308; 9 CFR 381; 9 CFR 416

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: FSIS is proposing to consolidate the sanitation regulations into a single part applicable to both meat and poultry establishments, eliminate unnecessary differences between the meat and poultry sanitation requirements, and convert many of the highly prescriptive requirements to performance standards.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	08/25/97	62 FR 45045
NPRM Comment Period End	10/24/97	
Final Action	04/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses

Government Levels Affected: Federal

Agency Contact: Patricia Stofa, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Regulations and Inspection, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Washington DC 20250-3700
Phone: 202 205-0699

RIN: 0583-AC39

281. • PATHOGEN REDUCTION; HAZARD ANALYSIS AND CRITICAL CONTROL POINT (HACCP) SYSTEMS SAMPLING COLLECTION—TECHNICAL AMENDMENT AND CORRECTIONS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Legal Authority: 21 USC 601 to 695; 21 USC 451 to 470; 7 USC 450 et seq

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 310; 9 CFR 381; 9 CFR 417

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is making a

technical amendment and two minor corrections to the final rule, "Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems," published on July 25, 1996.

Currently, turkeys tested for generic E. coli are shaken in a bag containing a buffer solution. At FSIS's May 8, 1997, E. coli Testing Conference, FSIS received numerous comments regarding this process. Most of the commenters expressed concern about the physical difficulty of shaking large turkeys (i.e., those that are 15 to 20 pounds). Commenters also stated that because of the size of the turkeys sample contamination can occur when the shaking fluid is scanted from the shaking bag into the sample bottle for transportation to the laboratory. Data presented at the conference indicated that sampling turkeys by using a sponging technique provides accurate and reliable results for microbiological sampling.

FSIS has determined that shaking turkeys in the bag may be difficult for individuals taking the sample and that sample contamination may occur. Also, FSIS has reviewed the data regarding sponge sampling turkey carcasses and determined that such sampling is effective. Therefore, FSIS will amend the Pathogen Reduction/HACCP final rule to permit establishments to sample turkeys by sponging the back and thigh or to continue shaking the turkeys in a bag.

This technical amendment and the correction of two editorial oversights will not change the cost estimate and the information collection burden in the final rule.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Direct Final Rule	11/14/97	62 FR 61007
Final Action	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Patricia Stofa, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Regulations and Inspection, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Washington, DC 20250-3700
Phone: 202 205-0699

RIN: 0583-AC40

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)
Long-Term Actions**282. NUTRITION LABELING OF GROUND BEEF AND HAMBURGER****Priority:** Other Significant**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 317; 9 CFR 381**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/24/94	59 FR 26916
NPRM Extension of Comment Period	07/05/94	59 FR 34396
NPRM Comment Period End	07/08/94	
NPRM Extension of Comment Period End	08/22/94	
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** William Hudnall
Phone: 202 720-7773**RIN:** 0583-AB74**283. NUTRITION LABELING; NEW PRODUCT CATEGORIES AND REFERENCE AMOUNTS****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.**Unfunded Mandates:** Undetermined**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 317; 9 CFR 381**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	
NPRM Comment Period End	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined**Government Levels Affected:** Undetermined**Agency Contact:** Robert Post
Phone: 202 418-8900**RIN:** 0583-AB81**284. USE OF SOY PROTEIN CONCENTRATE AND FOOD STARCH—MODIFIED AS BINDERS IN CURED PORK PRODUCTS****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 318**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** Robert Post
Phone: 202 205-0279**RIN:** 0583-AB82**285. REFRIGERATION AND LABELING REQUIREMENTS FOR SHELL EGGS****Priority:** Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.**Unfunded Mandates:** Undetermined**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 56; 7 CFR 59**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined**Government Levels Affected:** Undetermined**Agency Contact:** Patricia Stolfa
Phone: 202 205-0699**RIN:** 0583-AC04**286. TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS FOODS****Priority:** Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.**Unfunded Mandates:** Undetermined**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 305; 9 CFR 381**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	11/22/96	61 FR 59372
ANPRM Comment Period End	02/20/97	
NPRM	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined**Government Levels Affected:** Undetermined**Agency Contact:** Ralph Stafko
Phone: 202 205-0700**RIN:** 0583-AC05**287. CARRAGEENAN, LOCUST BEAN GUM, AND XANTHAN GUM BLEND USED AS A BINDER IN CERTAIN CURED PORK PRODUCTS****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.**Unfunded Mandates:** Undetermined**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 318**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Direct Final Rule	11/19/97	62 FR 61619
NPRM	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** Undetermined**Agency Contact:** Patricia Stolfa
Phone: 202 205-0699**RIN:** 0583-AC16
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)
Completed Actions**288. USE OF TRISODIUM PHOSPHATE (TSP) ON RAW, UNCHILLED POULTRY CARCASSES****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 381**Completed:**

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Withdrawn	02/02/98	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** Patricia Stolfa
Phone: 202 205-0699**RIN:** 0583-AB80**289. MEAT AND POULTRY STANDARDS OF IDENTITY AND COMPOSITION****Priority:** Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.**Unfunded Mandates:** Undetermined**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.**CFR Citation:** 9 CFR 318; 9 CFR 381**Completed:**

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Withdrawn	01/28/98	

USDA—FSIS

Completed Actions

Small Entities Affected: Businesses
Government Levels Affected: None
Agency Contact: William Hudnall
 Phone: 202 720-7773
RIN: 0583-AC01

290. USE OF SORBITOL IN COOKED ROAST BEEF PRODUCTS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant
CFR Citation: 9 CFR 318
Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Withdrawn	01/28/98	

Small Entities Affected: None
Government Levels Affected: None
Agency Contact: Charles Edwards
 Phone: 202 254-2588
RIN: 0583-AC02

291. PROCEDURAL DUE PROCESS FOR OFFICIAL ESTABLISHMENTS RULES OF PRACTICE

Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 335; 9 CFR 381

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Merged With RIN 0583-AC34	01/28/98	

Small Entities Affected: None
Government Levels Affected: None
Agency Contact: Patricia Stolfa
 Phone: 202 205-0699
RIN: 0583-AC12

292. USE OF TWO KINDS OF POULTRY WITHOUT LABEL CHANGE

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 381

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Merged With RIN 0583-AC42	01/28/98	

Small Entities Affected: None
Government Levels Affected: None
Agency Contact: Cheryl Wade
 Phone: 202 254-2590
RIN: 0583-AC17

293. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR THE IRRADIATION OF POULTRY TO CONTROL FOODBORNE PATHOGENS

Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 381

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Withdrawn	02/02/98	

Small Entities Affected: None
Government Levels Affected: None
Agency Contact: Patricia Stolfa
 Phone: 202 205-0699
RIN: 0583-AC20

294. LABELING OF EGG PRODUCTS

Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 59

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Withdrawn	01/28/98	

Small Entities Affected: None
Government Levels Affected: None
Agency Contact: William Hudnall
 Phone: 202 720-7773
RIN: 0583-AC23

295. USE OF MODIFIED FOOD STARCH IN HAM WITH NATURAL JUICES

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 319

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	01/05/98	63 FR 147
Final Action Effective	03/06/98	

Small Entities Affected: None
Government Levels Affected: None
Agency Contact: Patricia Stolfa
 Phone: 202 205-0699
RIN: 0583-AC29

296. GENERIC E. COLI TESTING FOR SHEEP, GOATS, DUCKS, GEESE, AND GUINEAS

Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 310; 9 CFR 381

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	11/03/97	62 FR 59305
Final Action Effective	01/02/98	

Small Entities Affected: None
Government Levels Affected: None
Agency Contact: Patricia Stolfa
 Phone: 202 205-0699
RIN: 0583-AC32

297. • USE OF TWO KINDS OF POULTRY WITHOUT LABEL CHANGE

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Legal Authority: 21 USC 451

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 381

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has been petitioned to amend the poultry products inspection regulations to permit the use of different amounts, within limits, of two kinds of poultry in a poultry product without changing the product's ingredient statement. This is currently allowed in the Federal meat inspection regulations. In these situations, the word "and" instead of a comma between the declaration of the

USDA—FSIS

Completed Actions

two meat components in the ingredients statement indicates that the order of predominance may be interchanged. This allows processor the flexibility to modify formulas within limits to utilize inventory properly, while protecting label integrity and consumer expectancy.

The 7 comments, 2 from industry members and 5 from trade associations were overall in full support of the added flexibility. All but one suggested additional changes that they felt would make the rule more effective. Most said the use of the word "and" was needed in the product name as well as the ingredient statement, otherwise no benefit from the change would be realized. The change was intended to be effective and so this change has been added to the rule. Several commenters remarked that, since at the time of the publication of the proposal, mechanically separated (kind) (MSK) product did not need to be separately labeled in poultry, it was not specifically mentioned as permitted as part of the two kinds of meat. Now without specific mention, the commenters state, it would not be permitted. This is true. The purpose of the rule is to make meat and poultry rules the same with regard to this provision. In as much as the meat equivalent to MSK can't be used to fulfill the meat requirement, MSK poultry can't be used to fulfill the poultry requirement. This was intended at the time of the proposal and the Agency has no reason to change.

Several of the commenters wanted to allow the use of two kinds across meat and poultry lines, so that, for instance, beef and chicken could be used. This was not intended at this time, was not proposed, and will have to await fuller integration of the two sets of regulations. At the moment the Agency has no information as to consumer expectations in this regard.

Some commenters requested that the lower level be changed to 20% and some requested the change be expanded to 80%/20%. The 20% level was obtained from Policy Memos 029 and 030A entitled "Labeling Poultry Ingredients," Labeling Meat Products Containing Poultry Ingredients," respectively. The purpose of the policy memos was to distinguish between the need for when a species or kind identification must appear as part of the product name as to being product name qualifier. The use of 20% or 80%/ 20% here would allow too much flexibility and could well frustrate consumer expectancy. Further no data was submitted on the subject of consumer expectancy to support this drastic change.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/27/96	61 FR 68167
NPRM Comment Period End	02/27/97	
Final Action	03/09/98	63 FR 11359
Final Action Effective	03/09/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Patricia Stofa, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Regulations and Inspection, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Office of Policy, Program Development, and Evaluation, Washington, DC 20250-3700
Phone: 202 205-0699

RIN: 0583-AC42

298. • FOOD LABELING: NUTRIENT CONTENT CLAIMS, DEFINITION OF TERM: HEALTHY

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Legal Authority: 21 USC 601; 21 USC 451

CFR Citation: 9 CFR 317; 9 CFR 381

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), in response to a petition, is amending the Federal meat and poultry products inspection regulations to extend the effective date to January 1, 2000, on certain provisions of the nutrient content claims regulations pertaining to the use of the term "healthy." FSIS also is requesting public comment on whether the Agency should proceed with further rulemaking. The petitioner has raised serious questions on the technological feasibility of manufacturing certain meat and poultry products at the defined low sodium "healthy" levels and about the lack of scientific knowledge about sodium and health and safety issues. FSIS needs to explore the issues more fully and reevaluate the standard for "healthy" with regard to low sodium content meat and poultry products.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	02/13/98	63 FR 7279
Final Action Effective	02/13/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: William Hudnall, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Office of Policy, Program Development, and Evaluation, Washington, DC 20250-3700
Phone: 202 205-0495

RIN: 0583-AC47

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-F

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)

Prerule Stage

299. • DAIRY TARIFF-RATE IMPORT QUOTA LICENSING

Priority: Other Significant

Unfunded Mandates: This action may affect the private sector under PL 104-4.

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 7 USC 624; 19 USC 1202; 31 USC 9701; PL 103-465; 19 USC 3513; 19 USC 3601

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 6.20 to 6.36

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: Amend the existing regulation to clarify certain provisions

USDA—FAS

Prerule Stage

and streamline operational requirements.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	05/00/98	
ANPRM Comment Period End	06/00/98	
NPRM	09/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	10/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Robert Riston, Regulatory Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, Room 4965-S, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202 720-6713
Fax: 202 720-7138

Email: riston@usda.gov

Valerie Countiss, Regulatory Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, Room 4965-S, 1400 Independence SW., Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202 720-6713
Fax: 202 720-7138
Email: countiss@usda.gov
RIN: 0551-AA53

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)

Proposed Rule Stage

300. EXPORT SALES REPORTING REQUIREMENT

Priority: Other Significant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 5712

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 20

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: Consideration of a proposal to add meat and meat products to the list of commodities to be reported under the Export Sales Reporting requirements. The Advance Notice of

Proposed Rulemaking requested public comment on the benefits, costs, and methods for collecting meat export sales information.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	11/14/96	61 FR 58343
ANPRM Comment Period End	02/12/97	
NPRM	04/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Robert Riston, Regulatory Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, Room 4957-S, Washington, DC 20250-1000
Phone: 202 720-6713

RIN: 0551-AA51

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)

Final Rule Stage

301. CCC SUPPLIER CREDIT GUARANTEE PROGRAM

Priority: Economically Significant

Legal Authority: 15 USC 714(b); 15 USC 714(f); 7 USC 5602; 7 USC 5622; 7 USC 5661; 7 USC 5663; 7 USC 5664; 7 USC 5676

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1493

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The final rule will amend regulations for CCC export credit guarantee programs by adding a new subpart D, supplier credit guarantee program. Subpart D will establish the terms and conditions by which U.S. exporters of U.S. agricultural commodities and products may obtain CCC credit guarantees for short term credits extended directly to foreign buyers.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Rule	10/19/94	59 FR 52866
NPRM	07/19/95	60 FR 37025
NPRM Comment Period End	09/18/95	

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	07/01/96	61 FR 33825
Final Action	04/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Robert Riston, Regulatory Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, Room 4957 South Building, Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202 720-6713

RIN: 0551-AA30

302. SUGAR IMPORT LICENSING

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 19 USC 1202

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1530 subpart A; 7 CFR 1530 subpart B; 7 CFR 1530 subpart C

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This notice of proposed rulemaking addresses some administrative changes to the sugar import licensing programs. These changes are intended to increase the regulatory efficiency, assist in verifying program compliance and provide for the adherence of the applicable sugar provisions of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

The NPRM will also provide for implementation of certain changes to the lead note to chapter 17 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, pursuant to the Uruguay Round agreement.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	05/04/94	59 FR 23017
ANPRM Comment Period End	07/08/94	
NPRM	08/06/96	61 FR 40749
NPRM Comment Period End	10/07/96	
Final Action	10/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

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Final Rule Stage

Government Levels Affected: Federal

Agency Contact: Robert Riston,
Regulatory Coordinator, Department of
Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural
Service, Room 4957 South Building,
Washington, DC 20250-1000
Phone: 202 720-6713

RIN: 0551-AA39

303. • PROPOSED REGULATION GOVERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MARKET ACCESS PROGRAM

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

Legal Authority: 7 USC 5623

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1485

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The rule proposes to amend the regulations to incorporate into the level of export contributions made by US industry participant, authorized reimbursement of certain travel expenses for brand participants, and certain necessary packaging and labeling design expenses; extend the activity payment deadline following the end of an activity plan year; establish a 5-year limit per country on CCC assistance for brand promotion by single companies; and permit reimbursement to participants based upon issuance of a Credit memo as an alternative to a transfer of funds.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	05/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Robert Riston,
Regulatory Coordinator, Department of
Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural
Service, Room 4965, 1400
Independence Avenue SW.,
Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202 720-6713
Fax: 202 720-7138
Email: riston@usda.gov

Valerie Countiss, Regulatory
Coordinator, Compliance Review Staff,
Department of Agriculture, Foreign
Agricultural Service, Room 4965-S,
1400 Independence Avenue SW.,
Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202 720-6713
Fax: 202 720-7138
Email: countiss@usda.gov

RIN: 0551-AA52

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Long-Term Actions

Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)

304. PROPOSED REGULATIONS GOVERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATOR MARKET DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OVERSEAS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant.
Major status under 5 USC 801 is
undetermined.

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1550

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Robert Riston
Phone: 202 720-6713

RIN: 0551-AA26

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	06/02/94	59 FR 28495
ANPRM Comment Period End	08/01/94	
Interim Final Rule	05/02/95	60 FR 21425
Interim Final Rule	09/13/95	60 FR 47453
NPRM	01/18/96	61 FR 1233
NPRM Comment Period End	03/18/96	
Final Rule	10/09/96	61 FR 53002
NPRM	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Robert Riston
Phone: 202 720-6713

RIN: 0551-AA27

306. FACILITY GUARANTEE PROGRAM

Priority: Other Significant

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 17; 7 CFR 1493

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule Effective	03/01/93	
Interim Final Rule Comment Period End	06/01/93	
Interim Final Rule	08/08/97	62 FR 42651

305. DAIRY TARIFF RATE IMPORT QUOTA LICENSING

Priority: Economically Significant

Reinventing Government: This
rulemaking is part of the Reinventing
Government effort. It will revise text in
the CFR to reduce burden or
duplication, or streamline
requirements.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 6.20 to 6.34

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule Comment Period End	10/07/97	
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Robert Riston
Phone: 202 720-6713

RIN: 0551-AA35

307. REFORM OF EXPORT BONUS PROGRAM

Priority: Other Significant

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1494; 7 CFR 1570

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	06/26/95	60 FR 32923
ANPRM Comment Period End	07/26/95	
Next Action Undetermined		

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

Government Levels Affected:
Undetermined

Agency Contact: Robert Riston
Phone: 202 720-6713

RIN: 0551-AA41

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)
Completed Actions
**308. REGULATION GOVERNING THE
FINANCING OF COMMERCIAL SALES
OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES
(PL 480, TITLE I)**
Priority: Other Significant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 17**Completed:**

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	10/10/97	62 FR 52929
Final Action Effective	11/10/97	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** Robert Riston
Phone: 202 720-6713**RIN:** 0551-AA42**BILLING CODE** 3410-10-F
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
Forest Service (FS)
Proposed Rule Stage
**309. SMALL TRACTS ACT
REGULATIONS**
Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant**Legal Authority:** 16 USC 521(c) to 521(i)**CFR Citation:** 36 CFR 254**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: Implementation of the Agency's Small Tracts regulations (adopted in 1984) has revealed an inadvertent inconsistency between the regulations at 36 CFR 254.35(f) and 254.41(a) and the legislative history of the Small Tracts Act of January 12, 1983. The regulations imply that the disposal of mineral fractions by sale can only be made in response to an application from an abutting landowner, thus discouraging the conveyance by sale to the public. The Act clearly authorizes sale of mineral fractions to the public through public sale, as well as individual applications, provided that certain conditions are met. The revisions will clarify the application of the Act to ensure that both individual applications and public sale are permissible means of disposing of qualifying tracts.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	07/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None

Agency Contact: Marian P. Connolly, Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090
Phone: 703 235-1488

RIN: 0596-AA79
**310. NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM
LAND AND RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT PLANNING**
Priority: Other Significant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 16 USC 1600 et seq; 5 USC 301**CFR Citation:** 36 CFR 219**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: The Secretary has chartered a Committee of Scientists to advise the Forest Service and the Department on improvements to national forest land and resource management planning. The agency will draft a new proposed rule following considerations of the Committee's recommendations. In the interim, the Department will evaluate opportunities to streamline the current plan revision requirements to help forests avoid costly, outdated and burdensome revision processes.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	02/15/91	56 FR 6508
NPRM	04/13/95	60 FR 18886
NPRM Comment Period End	08/17/95	60 FR 36767
Second NPRM	09/00/98	
Second NPRM Comment Period End	11/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined**Government Levels Affected:** None

Agency Contact: Marian P. Connolly, Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington DC 20090-6090
Phone: 703 235-1488

RIN: 0596-AB20
**311. SPECIES SURPLUS TO
DOMESTIC MANUFACTURING NEEDS**
Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant**Legal Authority:** 16 USC 620 et seq**CFR Citation:** 36 CFR 223.200**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: This proposed rule would amend 36 CFR 223.200, to list species proposed to be surplus to domestic manufacturing needs. This proposed rule would implement a portion of section 620a(b) of the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (16 USC 620 et seq). Section 620a(a) of the Act provides that no person who acquires unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States may export such timber from the United States, or sell, trade, exchange or otherwise convey such timber from the United States, unless such timber has been determined under subsection (b) to be surplus to the needs of timber manufacturing facilities in the United States. Section 620a(b) of the Act provides that the prohibition contained in section (a) shall not apply to specific quantities of grades and species of unprocessed timber originating in Federal lands which the Secretary determines, through rulemaking, to be surplus to domestic manufacturing needs.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	07/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	09/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses**Government Levels Affected:** Federal

Agency Contact: Marian P. Connolly, Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090
Phone: 703 235-1488

RIN: 0596-AB27

USDA—FS

Proposed Rule Stage

312. NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANNING FOREST SERVICE MANUAL CHAPTER 1920**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Legal Authority:** 16 USC 1600 et seq**CFR Citation:** 00 CFR 00**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: The proposed manual policy would streamline planning requirements to guide forest plan amendment revisions until such time as new planning regulations are adopted.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	08/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined**Government Levels Affected:** None

Agency Contact: Marian P. Connolly, Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090
Phone: 703 235-1488

RIN: 0596-AB31**313. COLLECTION OF REIMBURSABLE COSTS FOR PROCESSING SPECIAL-USE APPLICATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION OF SPECIAL-USE AUTHORIZATIONS**

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant.
Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined**Legal Authority:** 43 USC 1764; 30 USC 181**CFR Citation:** 36 CFR 251**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: The objective of this proposal is to incorporate into regulation the authority contained in the Mineral Leasing Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act to reimburse the United States for reasonable administrative costs associated with the issuance and administration of special-use authorizations on National Forest System lands. It responds to a recommendation contained in GAO Audit Report RCED-97-16 (12/96).

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	08/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses, Organizations**Government Levels Affected:** None

Additional Information: Cost reimbursement for processing special-use applications and administration of special-use authorizations was originally included under RIN 0596-AA36. All provisions pertaining to the special-use application and administration process have been merged with RIN 0596-AB35. Thus, this rulemaking addresses only the cost-reimbursement provisions.

Agency Contact: Marian P. Connolly, Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090
Phone: 703 235-1488

RIN: 0596-AB36**314. APPEAL OF DECISIONS RELATING TO OCCUPANCY AND USE OF NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Legal Authority:** 16 USC 472; 16 USC 551**CFR Citation:** 36 CFR 251; 36 CFR 214**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: These proposed regulations would redesignate these appeals rules as a new part 214, thus placing all appeals and notices and comment rules in close proximity. Additionally, this proposed rule would revise a number of existing provisions. For example, changes to part 251 would clarify the application of this rule to the issuance of permits for occupancy and use of National Forest System lands. When 36 CFR part 251, subpart C, regulations were promulgated in 1989, NEPA analysis and documentation was not consistently applied to the authorization of special uses. Now the authorization and the issuance of permits and other authorization requires application of the NEPA process prior to issuance. In addition, since these regulations were implemented, Congress has passed the Appeal Reform Act. The proposed changes to the permit related appeal

rules are needed to make this regulation consistent with regulations at 36 CFR part 215. Among specific proposed changes being considered are removing the second level of appeal opportunity, removing the discretionary review option, shortening timeframes for scheduling oral presentations, and changes to conform terminology and definitions with 36 CFR part 215.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	09/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses**Government Levels Affected:** Federal

Agency Contact: Marian P. Connolly, Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090
Phone: 703 235-1488

RIN: 0596-AB45**315. SALE AND DISPOSAL OF NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM TIMBER; EXTENSION OF TIMBER SALE CONTRACTS TO PERMIT URGENT REMOVAL OF OTHER TIMBER****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Legal Authority:** 16 USC 472a; 16 USC 618; 16 USC 620**CFR Citation:** 36 CFR 223.50; 36 CFR 223.53**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: This rule and policy change will provide for extension of National Forest System (NFS) timber sale contracts when such extension will permit the prompt removal and utilization of non-NFS owned timber damaged by catastrophic events. The change will define the responsibilities of the parties for requesting and approving such extensions and specify when such extension should be approved. This change will also allow for the use of scarce timber resources and the recovery of economic benefits from timber that might otherwise be lost because of contractual obligations to harvest undamaged timber.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	09/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	11/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses

USDA—FS

Proposed Rule Stage

Government Levels Affected: Federal

Agency Contact: Marian P. Connolly, Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090
Phone: 703 235-1488

RIN: 0596-AB48

316. DISPOSAL OF NATIONAL FOREST TIMBER: TIMBER SALE CONTRACT REVISIONS

Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Legal Authority: 16 USC 472a; 16 USC 618; 16 USC 620 et seq

CFR Citation: 00 CFR 00

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This proposed policy would revise form 2400-6 and the 2400-6T timber sale contracts currently used by the Forest Service to sell National Forest System timber. The proposed timber sale contract provisions will be included as part of the proposed policy. The proposed contracts reflect recent court decisions and recent natural resource and environmental legislation and would clarify the rights, responsibilities, and obligations of the contracting parties. The proposed policy also would address specific provisions in the current contract that have generated costly litigation in the past between the Government and the purchaser and would address the concerns regarding timber theft and log accountability.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	08/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: Federal

Agency Contact: Marian Connolly, Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090
Phone: 703 235-1488

RIN: 0596-AB52

317. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT; REVISED POLICY AND PROCEDURES; CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS

Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Legal Authority: 42 USC 4371

CFR Citation: 00 CFR 00

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The proposed revision to Forest Service Manual and Handbook direction would be revised to clarify the environmental analysis process used by the Forest Service to implement the NEPA regulations at 40 CFR part 1500. The proposal will focus on better defining the process for determining when projects are categorically excluded and expanding the categories of action that can be excluded under NEPA.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	08/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	10/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Marian P. Connolly, Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, P. O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090
Phone: 703 235-1488

RIN: 0596-AB54

318. APPEAL OF DECISIONS RELATING TO OCCUPANCY AND USE OF NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS; MEDIATION OF GRAZING PERMIT DISPUTES

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 5101 to 5106

CFR Citation: 36 CFR 251

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: Under section 282 of the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994, the Secretary of Agriculture is required to offer mediation of grazing permit disputes on National Forest System lands in those States which have USDA certified mediation programs. In response to the Act, the Forest Service proposes to publish proposed modifications of the Agency's administrative appeal rule at 36 CFR part 251, subpart C, to allow for mediation of grazing permit disputes. Final modifications will be promulgated after the public comment period ends.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/00/98	

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM Comment Period End	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Marian P. Connolly, Regulatory Liaison, Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, PO Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090
Phone: 703 235-1488

RIN: 0596-AB59

319. LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

Priority: Info./Admin./Other

Legal Authority: 7 USC 1011(f); 16 USC 472; 16 USC 551; 16 USC 559(a) to 559(g); 40 USC 484(m)

CFR Citation: 36 CFR 262

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: In February, 1994, the Forest Service published proposed rule changes for parts 261 and 262 of title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Due to the high level of interest in and comment on part 261, the decision was made to publish a second proposed rule. The majority of the public comment on part 262 referred to the definition section which has been revised to respond to those comments. The Forest Service has decided to issue a second proposed rule for comment on part 262, Law Enforcement Support Activities. Proposed revisions to part 261 will proceed separately.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	02/16/94	59 FR 7880
NPRM Comment Period End	05/18/94	
Second NPRM	08/00/98	
Second NPRM Comment Period End	11/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Marian P. Connolly, Regulatory Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, PO Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090
Phone: 703 235-1488

RIN: 0596-AB61

USDA—FS

Proposed Rule Stage

320. ADMINISTRATIVE, COOPERATIVE FUNDS AGREEMENTS**Priority:** Info./Admin./Other**Legal Authority:** 16 USC 498; 16 USC 472; 16 USC 551**CFR Citation:** 36 CFR 211**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: The Forest Service proposes to amend current regulations to establish minimum requirements applicable to written agreements between cooperators and the Forest Service. This rulemaking expands the basis for executing written agreements by allowing reimbursable payments by the cooperator and provides guidance to address conflict of interest as well as appearance of conflict of interest, in addition to protecting the Government's interest. The agency anticipates no additional cost for this regulation. Allowing the cooperator to reimburse the Forest Service upon completion of a project for their contribution will benefit both parties in that now there will be only one payment. The proposed rule will result in the elimination of refunds from the Forest Service to the cooperator for delayed or cancelled projects or for variances from the original cost estimates. The Government's interests are protected through guaranteed reimbursement by the cooperator, when the cooperator's contributions are greater than \$25,000, by Department of Treasury approved corporate sureties, Federal Government obligations or irrevocable letters of credit.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None

Agency Contact: Marian P. Connolly, Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090
Phone: 703 235-1488

RIN: 0596-AB63**321. • ADMINISTRATION OF THE FOREST DEVELOPMENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Legal Authority:** Not Applicable**CFR Citation:** 36 CFR 212**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: The Forest Service proposes to revise the regulations concerning the management of the National Forest System transportation system to address changes in how the road system is developed, used, maintained, and funded. The existing road system on National Forest System lands was largely funded and constructed to develop areas for timber harvesting and the development of other resources. In the last two decades, interest in the appropriate uses of the resources of the national forests, as well as the costs associated with resource development, including road-building, has generated much public debate. At the same time, resource uses on the national forests have shifted substantially toward recreation. The agency believes this is an appropriate time to consider changes in public opinion, public demand, and public use of national forest resources in the context of the accumulated body of scientific information about the benefits and environmental impacts of roads, and to consider adjustments in the management of the forest road system to respond to these changes and, thus, better serve present and future management objectives in a more efficient manner.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	01/28/98	63 FR 4350
ANPRM Comment Period End	03/30/98	
NPRM	07/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	09/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined**Government Levels Affected:** Undetermined

Agency Contact: Marian P. Connolly, Regulatory Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, PO Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090
Phone: 703 235-1488

Fax: 703 235-2523

Email: mconnoll/wo@fs.fed.us

RIN: 0596-AB67**322. • NONCOMPETITIVE SALE OF TIMBER****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Legal Authority:** 16 USC 472(a)**CFR Citation:** 36 CFR 223.85**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: This proposed rule would revise 36 CFR 223.85 by removing references to section 2001(k) of Public Law 104-19 (109 Stat.246) and define "extraordinary conditions" to allow forest officers, without advertisement, to make modifications to timber and forest product sales, which result in the substitution of timber or forest products from outside the sale area specified in the contract. Under the proposed rule, substitute timber or forest products would have to come from the same administrative national forest and meet agency requirements for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and other environmental laws. This proposed rule would not compel a timber purchaser to accept a timber sale modification offered under this rule. The rule only authorizes the Forest Service to propose modifications and to enter into discussions with purchasers on such modifications.

This proposed rule will reduce timber sale cancellations and partial cancellations, thus reducing future damage claims on timber sales.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None

Agency Contact: Marian P. Connolly, Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, PO Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090
Phone: 703 235-1488

Fax: 703 235-2523

Email: mconnoll/wo@fs.fed.us

RIN: 0596-AB70

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Final Rule Stage

Forest Service (FS)

323. HYDROPOWER APPLICATIONS**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Legal Authority:** 16 USC 551; 43 USC 1761**CFR Citation:** 00 CFR 00**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: The Forest Service is revising its current policy and procedures implemented in February 1987, concerning administration of hydropower authorizations and the processing of proposals for hydropower projects affecting National Forest System lands. These revisions are necessary to make agency policy and procedures consistent with regulatory changes by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The proposed policy was published in the Federal Register on May 22, 1995 (60 FR 27153) for a 60-day public comment period, which was extended for another 45 days (60 FR 36401). The final policy incorporates revisions and addresses comments received during the public comment period.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/22/95	60 FR 27153
NPRM Comment Period Extended	07/17/95	60 FR 36401
NPRM Comment Period End	09/05/95	
Final Action	12/00/98	
Final Action Effective	12/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined**Government Levels Affected:** None

Agency Contact: Marian P. Connolly, Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090
Phone: 703 235-1488

RIN: 0596-AA47**324. INDIAN ALLOTMENTS ON NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Legal Authority:** 16 USC 472; 16 USC 551; 16 USC 1603; 43 USC 1740; 25 USC 337**CFR Citation:** 36 CFR 254**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: This rule sets forth Forest Service procedures and role in the regulation of Indian allotments on National Forest System land. The Indian Allotment Act, as amended, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior

to make allotments of National Forest System lands to Indians for homesteading and agricultural and grazing purposes. The Forest Service has relied upon USDI rules and procedures at 43 CFR 2533 to govern its involvement in Indian allotment cases. Litigation and a decision by the Interior Board of Land Appeals require the Forest Service to set forth its own regulations.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/22/87	52 FR 23473
NPRM Comment Period End	07/22/87	
Final Action	05/00/98	
Final Action Effective	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None

Agency Contact: Marian P. Connolly, Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090
Phone: 703 235-1488

RIN: 0596-AA52**325. DISPOSAL OF NATIONAL FOREST TIMBER; CANCELLATION OF TIMBER SALE CONTRACTS****Priority:** Other Significant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 16 USC 472a; 16 USC 551; 16 USC 618**CFR Citation:** 36 CFR 223.30; 36 CFR 223.40; 36 CFR 223.116**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: Current regulations governing cancellation of National Forest timber sale contracts do not adequately protect the Government's financial interests in the event the Forest Service is forced to cancel contracts due to events beyond its control arising from compliance with environmental statutes. This rulemaking would remove an unworkable compensation-of-damages formula and establish a termination-for-environmental-protection clause in timber sale contracts, a standard in most Federal procurement contracts.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/30/96	61 FR 68690
NPRM Comment Period End	02/13/97	
Final Action	08/00/98	
Final Action Effective	09/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** Undetermined

Agency Contact: Marian P. Connolly, Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090
Phone: 703 235-1488

RIN: 0596-AB21**326. STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY ASSISTANCE STEWARDSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM****Priority:** Other Significant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 16 USC 2101 et seq**CFR Citation:** 36 CFR 230**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: This final rule would incorporate streamlined procedural changes in response to public comments on the interim rule published December 4, 1991. The interim rule established the interim procedures for administration of the Stewardship Incentive Program. The Program is intended to encourage private landowners, through cost-share assistance, to manage their forest lands for economic, environmental, and social benefits. Only two alternatives were considered in detail: (1) to implement the Program in accordance with 16 USC 2101, et seq, and (2) not to implement the Program, in which case there would be no accelerated program for multiple resource management on nonindustrial private forest lands. The overall effects of the Program over time will be environmentally beneficial by enhancing wetlands, wildlife habitat, forest health, forest productivity, and recreation. The Program will help meet future demand for commodity and noncommodity forest resources. There are no potential negative impacts anticipated for the Program.

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Final Rule Stage

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	12/04/91	56 FR 63581
Interim Final Rule Public Comment Period End	01/21/92	
Final Action	05/00/98	
Final Action Effective	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None

Agency Contact: Marian P. Connolly, Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090
Phone: 703 235-1488

RIN: 0596-AB32**327. SPECIAL-USE APPLICATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION OF SPECIAL-USE AUTHORIZATIONS****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Legal Authority:** 43 USC 1764; 31 USC 483(a); 30 USC 181; 16 USC 551**CFR Citation:** 36 CFR 251**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: The Forest Service is amending the regulations governing the special use and occupancy of National Forest System lands to minimize application expenses, streamline and make more efficient environmental analysis of special use proposals, provide the ability to use one-time payments for easements as presently used in the marketplace, limit certain liability requirements to amounts determined by a risk assessment, make certain definitions more explicit, and clarify direction on renewal of existing special use regulations. The intended effect is to reduce costs to proponents and the agency, expedite decisionmaking, and administer authorizations in a more "user friendly" manner by removing certain requirements deemed unnecessary and/or outdated. This rulemaking responds to goals identified in the National Performance Review Regulatory Reform effort.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	08/14/92	57 FR 36618
NPRM Comment Period End	09/28/92	
Final Action	08/00/98	
Final Action Effective	09/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None

Agency Contact: Marian P. Connolly, Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090
Phone: 703 235-1488

RIN: 0596-AB35**328. SALE AND DISPOSAL OF NATIONAL FOREST TIMBER; MARKET-RELATED CONTRACT TERM ADDITIONS****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Legal Authority:** 16 USC 472a; 16 USC 618**CFR Citation:** 36 CFR 223.52**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: Based on General Accounting Office Testimony Report Number T-RCED-92-58, 04/28/92, the Secretary of Agriculture agreed to reexamine the use of the Bureau of Labor Statistics unadjusted indices to determine whether wood product prices have shown a drastic decline. This final rule will provide improved procedures for identifying drastic declines in lumber market prices that will trigger the need for contract-term additions.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	10/21/96	61 FR 54589
NPRM Comment Period End	01/21/97	
Final Action	05/00/98	
Final Action Effective	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses**Government Levels Affected:** Federal

Agency Contact: Marian P. Connolly, Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090
Phone: 703 235-1488

RIN: 0596-AB41**329. PREFERENCE FOR VISITOR SERVICE; ALASKA NATIONAL FOREST CONSERVATION SYSTEM UNITS****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Legal Authority:** 16 USC 3197**CFR Citation:** 36 CFR 251**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: The Forest Service is issuing regulations to define and establish procedures for administering the

statutory rights and preferences established by the Alaska National Interest Lands Act of 1980 for historical operators, Native Corporations, and local residents to conduct revenue producing visitor services on certain National Forest System Lands in Alaska. The regulations are necessary to comply with section 1307 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Act which requires the Secretary of Agriculture to give preference to persons he determines by rule are local residents. The regulations, which have been developed in close consultation with the other Federal land managing agencies in Alaska, will apply only to Conservation System Units administered by the Forest Service.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/25/97	62 FR 20140
NPRM Comment Period End	06/24/97	
Final Action	04/00/98	
Final Action Effective	04/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses**Government Levels Affected:** Undetermined

Agency Contact: Marian P. Connolly, Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090
Phone: 703 235-1488

RIN: 0596-AB57**330. SMALL BUSINESS TIMBER SALE SET-ASIDE PROGRAM; APPEAL PROCEDURE ON RECOMPUTATION OF SHARES****Priority:** Info./Admin./Other**Legal Authority:** 16 USC 472a; 16 USC 618; 16 USC 620; PL 104-208**CFR Citation:** 36 CFR 223.118**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: This final rule provides an opportunity for timber purchasers to comment on and appeal the recomputation of small business's share of timber sales. The Conference Report accompanying the 1997 Omnibus Appropriations Act (P.L. 104-208) directs the Forest Service to reimplement an administrative appeals procedure for the Small Business Administration (SBA) timber sale set-aside program. The final rule will establish procedures for appealing decisions relating to the recomputation of SBA shares.

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Final Rule Stage

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	03/24/97	62 FR 13826
Interim Final Rule Comment Period End	05/23/97	
Final Action	06/00/98	
Final Action Effective	07/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** Marian P. Connolly, Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090
Phone: 703 235-1488**RIN:** 0596-AB62**331. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR CERTAIN SKI AREA PERMIT ACTIONS****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant.
Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.**Unfunded Mandates:** Undetermined**Legal Authority:** Not Applicable**CFR Citation:** None**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: The Forest Service plans to issue interim directives (ID) to guide employees in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act when changes to or issuance of a ski area permit are purely ministerial actions and no changes are proposed in permitted activities or facilities. The ID would interpret a provision in section 701(i) of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Act of 1996 that reissuance of a ski area permit for activities similar in nature and amount to the activities authorized under the previous permit shall not constitute a

major Federal action. The ID to sec. 31.1b of FSH 1909.15, Environmental Policy and Procedures Handbook, would add a new category to the existing list of categorical exclusions established by the Chief to include permits for existing ski areas when no changes to the Master Development Plan and no new facilities or activities are authorized.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	10/27/97	62 FR 55571
NPRM Comment Period End	12/26/97	
Final Action	04/00/98	
Final Action Effective	04/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined**Government Levels Affected:** Undetermined**Agency Contact:** Marian P. Connolly, Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington DC 20090-6090
Phone: 703 235-1488**RIN:** 0596-AB65**332. • ADMINISTRATION OF THE FOREST DEVELOPMENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM: TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN ROADLESS AREAS****Priority:** Other Significant**Legal Authority:** 16 USC 551; 23 USC 205**CFR Citation:** 36 CFR 212.13**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: In an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) published in the Federal Register on

January 28, 1998 (63 FR 4350), the Forest Service announced its intentions to revise its management of the National Forest road system. In concert with that ANPR, the Forest Service proposes to suspend temporarily road construction and reconstruction in most roadless areas of the National Forest System. The intended effect is to safeguard the significant ecological values of roadless areas from potentially adverse effects associated with road construction, while new and improved analytical tools are developed to evaluate the impact of locating and constructing roads. The temporary suspension of road construction and reconstruction would expire upon the application of the new and improved analysis tools or 18 months, whichever is sooner. This rulemaking is a component of a larger effort to address a number of National Forest system transportation issues.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	01/28/98	63 FR 4349
Extension of Comment Period	02/27/98	63 FR 9980
Interim Final Rule Comment Period End	02/27/98	
Interim Final Rule	04/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** Marian P. Connolly, Regulatory Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, PO Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090
Phone: 703 235-1488
Fax: 703 235-2523
Email: mconnoll/wo@fs.fed.us**RIN:** 0596-AB68

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Long-Term Actions

Forest Service (FS)

333. NATIONAL FOREST PROHIBITIONS**Priority:** Other Significant**CFR Citation:** 36 CFR 261**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	02/16/94	59 FR 7880
NPRM Comment Period End	05/18/94	
Second NPRM	00/00/00	

Action	Date	FR Cite
Second NPRM Comment Period End	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** Marian P. Connolly
Phone: 703 235-1488**RIN:** 0596-AA75**334. • NOTICE, COMMENT, AND APPEAL PROCEDURES FOR NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Legal Authority:** PL 102-381, sec 322**CFR Citation:** 36 CFR 215**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: A recent lawsuit brought by a Forest Service employee challenging this regulation led to a reassessment of

USDA—FS

Long-Term Actions

the employee appeal limitation 36 CFR 215.11(c). The Department agreed to repeal the employee prohibition provision to allow the agency time to consider the issues related to employees filing appeals. After additional consideration of relevant factors, the Department may decide to publish a new proposed rule to address the matter of appeals by employees. If

so, public comment would be requested at the time.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	01/28/98	63 FR 4187
Next Action Undetermined		

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: Undetermined

Agency Contact: Marian P. Connolly, Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, PO Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090
Phone: 703 235-1488
Fax: 703 235-2523
Email: mconnoll/wo@fs.fed.us

RIN: 0596-AB69

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Completed Actions

Forest Service (FS)

335. TIMBER SALE PERFORMANCE AND PAYMENT BOND FORM REVISION

Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

CFR Citation: None

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Withdrawn - This Will Be Published As an Info. Collection	02/11/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Marian P. Connolly
Phone: 703 235-1488

RIN: 0596-AA94

336. RETENTION OF DOWNPAYMENT ON TIMBER SALE CONTRACTS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

CFR Citation: 36 CFR 223.49

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Withdrawn - The Agency Is Reevaluating This Action.	02/11/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Marian P. Connolly
Phone: 703 235-1488

RIN: 0596-AB28

337. DISPOSAL OF NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM TIMBER; MODIFICATION OF TIMBER SALE CONTRACTS IN EXTRAORDINARY CONDITIONS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

CFR Citation: 36 CFR 223.115

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Withdrawn - Agency Looking at Alternatives for Achieving This Objective	02/11/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: Local, Federal

Agency Contact: Marian P. Connolly
Phone: 703 235-1488

RIN: 0596-AB58

338. FEE SCHEDULE FOR COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES AUTHORIZED TO USE AND OCCUPY NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS IN REGIONS 8, 9, AND 10

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

CFR Citation: None

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	12/30/97	62 FR 68073
Final Action Effective	12/30/97	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Marian P. Connolly
Phone: 703 235-1488

RIN: 0596-AB60

339. SMITH RIVER NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

CFR Citation: 36 CFR 292

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	03/27/98	63 FR 15041

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Marian P. Connolly
Phone: 703 235-1488

RIN: 0596-AB64

340. NEPA PROCEDURE FOR EMERGENCY ACTIONS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

CFR Citation: None

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Withdrawn - This Action Will Be Incorporated Into 0596-AB54.	02/11/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Marian P. Connolly
Phone: 703 235-1488

RIN: 0596-AB66

BILLING CODE 3410-11-F

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
Office of Chief Financial Officer (OCFO)
Completed Actions
341. ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANTEES TO REFLECT SINGLE AUDIT ACT AMENDMENTS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing

Government effort. It will eliminate existing text in the CFR.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 3052

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
No Further Action Required	10/28/97	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: State, Local, Tribal, Federal

Agency Contact: Pat Wensel
Phone: 202 720-1175
Fax: 202 690-3561

RIN: 0505-AA10
BILLING CODE 3410-KS-F

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
Office of the Secretary (AgSEC)
Proposed Rule Stage
342. UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Priority: Other Significant

Legal Authority: 5 USC 301

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 3016

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The USDA is proposing to move the administrative requirements for open-ended entitlement programs currently in 7 CFR part 3015 from part 3015 to 7 CFR part 3016 and 7 CFR

part 3019 and (1) to expand the scope of part 3016 to include open-ended entitlement awards and subawards to State and local governmental organizations and (2) to include in subpart E of part 3016 any deviations or exceptions from the requirements of subparts A to D of that part to apply only to entitlement programs.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/00/98	
Final Action	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: State, Local, Tribal

Agency Contact: Gerald Miske, Supervisory Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Agriculture, Office of the Secretary, Rm. 3022-S, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250

Phone: 202 720-1553
Fax: 202 690-1529

RIN: 0503-AA16

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
Office of the Secretary (AgSEC)
Final Rule Stage
343. • RURAL EMPOWERMENT ZONES-ROUND II

Priority: Other Significant

Legal Authority: PL 105-34

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 25

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This rule sets forth the policies and procedures for designating five new empowerment zones.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	05/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Robin Meigel, Finance Specialist, Department of Agriculture, Office of the Secretary
Phone: 202 720-9452

Fax: 202 720-7491

RIN: 0503-AA18

344. • UNIFORM PROCEDURES FOR THE ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER OF EXCESS PERSONAL PROPERTY

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 2206(a); 7 USC 301; 20 USC 1059c(b)

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 3200; 7 CFR 3201; 7 CFR 3202; 7 CFR 3203; 7 CFR 3204; 7 CFR 3205; 7 CFR 3206; 7 CFR 3208; 7 CFR 3209; 7 CFR 3210; 7 CFR 3211

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This action will set forth uniform procedures for the acquisition and transfer of excess personal property to the 1890 Land Grant Institutions (including Tuskegee University), the 1994 Land Grant Institutions and the

Hispanic Serving Institutions in support of research, educational, technical and scientific activities or for related purposes.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	01/23/98	63 FR 3481
NPRM Comment Period End	02/23/98	
Final Action	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

Government Levels Affected: Undetermined

Agency Contact: Linda W. Oliphant, Property Utilization Specialist, Department of Agriculture, Office of the Secretary

Phone: 202 720-3141
Fax: 202 720-3747

RIN: 0503-AA19

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
Office of the Secretary (AgSEC)
Long-Term Actions
**345. NONDISCRIMINATION IN USDA-
CONDUCTED PROGRAMS AND
ACTIVITIES**
Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 15
Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/23/96	61 FR 17851
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Lloyd Wright
 Phone: 202 720-5212

RIN: 0503-AA15

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
Office of the Secretary (AgSEC)
Completed Actions
**346. SUPPLEMENTAL STANDARDS
OF ETHICAL CONDUCT FOR
EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE**
Priority: Other Significant

CFR Citation: 5 CFR 2635
Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Withdrawn	02/03/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: Federal

Agency Contact: Denise Leger-Lee
 Phone: 202 720-3327

RIN: 0503-AA05

**347. UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE
REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANTS AND
AGREEMENTS WITH INSTITUTIONS
OF HIGHER EDUCATION, HOSPITALS,
AND OTHER NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATIONS**
Priority: Other Significant

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 3019
Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Merged With RIN 0503-AA16	11/20/97	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Gerald Miske
 Phone: 202 720-1553
 Fax: 202 690-1529

RIN: 0503-AA17

BILLING CODE 3410-90-F

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS)
Prerule Stage
**348. • BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY
GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAM -
FINANCING COOPERATIVE STOCK**
Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant.
 Major status under 5 USC 801 is
 undetermined.

Unfunded Mandates: This action may
 affect the private sector under
 PL 104-4.

Reinventing Government: This
 rulemaking is part of the Reinventing
 Government effort. It will revise text in
 the CFR to reduce burden or
 duplication, or streamline
 requirements.

Legal Authority: 7 USC 1989; 42 USC
 1480; 5 USC 301

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 4279 subpart B;
 7 CFR 4279 subpart A; 7 CFR 4287
 subpart B

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Agency proposes to
 revise the Business and Industry
 Program regulations to incorporate
 additional guidance and eliminate or
 reduce certain requirements when
 financing cooperative stock. It also
 purposes to develop a streamlined
 application form when financing
 working capital, which includes
 cooperative stocks.
Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	09/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses,
 Organizations

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Rick Bonnet, Sr.
 Commercial Loan Specialist, Business
 Programs Processing Division,
 Department of Agriculture, Rural
 Business-Cooperative Service, 1400
 Independence Ave. SW., Room 5419
 South, STOP 3201, Washington, DC
 20250
 Phone: 202 720-1804
 Fax: 202 690-3808

RIN: 0570-AA26

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS)
Proposed Rule Stage
**349. RURAL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT LOAN AND GRANT
PROGRAM**
Priority: Other Significant. Major status
 under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Legal Authority: 7 USC 940c

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1703 subpart B

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The current provisions that
 govern grant fund disbursement that
 were published on March 14, 1994, and
 October 27, 1994, need to be revised
 to provide more flexibility to advance
 grant funds to electric and telephone
 borrowers (the "grantees"). The Agency

 will review on a case-by-case basis the
 requirements for disbursement of funds
 and provide for the advance of funds
 on an appropriate basis. This rule will
 greatly improve the Agency's ability to
 advance grant funds in a manner that
 is in both the government's and the
 grantee's best interest. The Agency and

USDA—RBS

Proposed Rule Stage

current grantees believe the changes should be made effective as soon as possible to avoid financial hardships for both the grantees and the ultimate recipients who will receive loans from the revolving loan funds. The Agency may also propose revisions to other sections pertaining to the selection factors, appeals process, bidding, and field review process. It will also receive a new number in the CFR.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Public Compliance Cost: Initial Cost: \$25,000; Yearly Recurring Cost: \$25,000; Base Year for Dollar Estimates: 1995

Sectors Affected: None

Agency Contact: Mark Wyatt, Team Leader, Specialty Lenders Division, Department of Agriculture, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Room 5413 South Building, Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202 720-0410

RIN: 0570-AA19

350. DIRECT BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY LOAN PROGRAM

Priority: Other Significant

Legal Authority: 7 USC 1989; 42 USC 1480; 5 USC 301

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1980 subpart A; 7 CFR 1980 subpart E; 7 CFR 1942 subpart A; 7 CFR 1951 subpart E

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Agency has received \$50 million direct Business and Industry (B&I) loan authority for fiscal year 1997. The Agency currently utilizes RD Instructions 1980-A and E, 1942-A, 1951-E to make and service new and existing direct B&I loans. These regulations contain very limited direction in direct B&I loan making. The Agency is writing a new regulation to replace the instructions for direct loan making and servicing. This program will complement the Agency's existing guaranteed (B&I) loan program.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM Comment Period End	07/00/98	
NPRM	08/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses, Organizations

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Richard Bonnet, Senior Loan Specialist, Business Program Loan Processing, Department of Agriculture, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Room 5419 South Building, Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202 720-1804

RIN: 0570-AA22

351. AFFIRMATIVE FAIR HOUSING MARKETING PLAN

Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

Legal Authority: 5 USC 301; 7 USC 1989; 42 USC 1480

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1948 subpart C; 7 CFR 1942 subpart G; 7 CFR 4284 subpart B; 7 CFR 1980 subpart E; 7 CFR 4279 subpart B; 7 CFR 1703 subpart B; 7 CFR 1980 subpart A

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This action will incorporate the requirement for housing-related projects (such as apartment buildings, nursing homes, group homes, and assisted living type facilities) to develop an Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan (plan) when receiving funding from the Intermediary Relending Program, Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program, Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Programs and the Business and Industry Direct Loan Program. The plan will describe strategies to attract applications from all groups in a housing market area and efforts to reach those persons in the market area who traditionally would not be expected to apply for housing. The Rural Housing Service Multi-Family Housing Program regulations currently include this borrower requirement. We estimate this action will impact a total of 100 housing related projects not previously required to complete a plan.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses

Government Levels Affected: Undetermined

Agency Contact: David Lewis, Loan Specialist, Department of Agriculture, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Room 5425 South Building, Washington, DC 20250

Phone: 202 690-0797

RIN: 0570-AA24

352. RURAL VENTURE CAPITAL DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Unfunded Mandates: Undetermined

Legal Authority: 7 USC 1989; 42 USC 1480; 5 USC 309

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 4279 subpart A; 7 CFR 4279 subpart F; 7 CFR 4287 subpart G

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: We are implementing a provision of the 1996 Farm Bill which authorizes designation of up to 10 community development venture capital organizations for a rural venture capital demonstration project. Up to \$15 million from the B&I National Reserve will be used to guarantee up to 30 percent of funds in a rural investment pool to be established by the selected community development venture capital organizations.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	04/09/97	62 FR 17107
ANPRM Comment Period End	05/09/97	
NPRM	08/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: Undetermined

Agency Contact: Richard Bonnet, Senior Loan Specialist, Business Program Loan Processing, Department of Agriculture, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Room 5419 South Building, Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202 720-1804

RIN: 0570-AA25

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS)
Final Rule Stage
**353. RURAL BUSINESS
OPPORTUNITY GRANTS**
Priority: Other Significant**Legal Authority:** 7 USC 1989; 7 USC 1926**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 4284; 7 CFR 1951**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service proposes to add a new regulation implementing a grant program to fund local technical assistance and planning activities in rural areas for the purpose of improving economic conditions in the areas. Grants will be available to public bodies and nonprofit organizations. This action is necessary to comply with P.L. 104-127. Grants may be used for technical assistance and training for small businesses, identifying and analyzing business opportunities in rural areas establishing business support centers, conducting local or multi-county economic development planning, coordination of economic development activities, and leadership development training of local government officials.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	02/03/98	63 FR 5474
Final Action	09/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None

Agency Contact: Wayne Stansbery, Loan Specialist, Department of Agriculture, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Room 2246-South, Washington, DC 20250

Phone: 202 720-6819

Fax: 202 720-6003

RIN: 0570-AA05
**354. RURAL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE
GRANTS AND TELEVISION
DEMONSTRATION GRANTS**
Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.**Legal Authority:** PL 102-552; 7 USC 1927; 7 USC 1939 (c)**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1942 subpart G; 7 CFR 4284 subpart B**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: Public Law 102-554 authorizes grants to qualified nonprofit organizations for the provision of technical assistance and training to rural communities for the purpose of improving passenger transportation services or facilities; to amend the definition for small and emerging private business enterprise to agree

with the program size standards established by the Small Business Administration; to clarify certain administrative regulatory guidelines in order to effect improved program administration; and also authorizes grants for educational purposes and distance learning networks.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
RBEG: Interim Final Rule To Provide Educational/Job Training Instruction.	05/23/94	59 FR 26585
NPRM	08/09/94	59 FR 40478
Final Action	08/00/98	
Final Action Effective	08/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses, Governmental Jurisdictions, Organizations

Government Levels Affected: State, Local, Tribal, Federal

Agency Contact: Carole Boyko, Rural Development Specialist, Specialty Lenders Division, Department of Agriculture, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Room 5404 South Building, Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202 720-0661

RIN: 0570-AA08
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS)
Long-Term Actions
**355. NATIONAL SHEEP INDUSTRY
IMPROVEMENT CENTER**
Priority: Other Significant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 4286 subpart A**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

Government Levels Affected:
Undetermined

Agency Contact: Thomas H. Stafford
Phone: 202 690-0368

Fax: 202 690-2723

Email: thomas.stafford@usda.gov

RIN: 0570-AA21
**356. RURAL BUSINESS AND
INDUSTRIAL LOAN PROGRAM -
MISCELLANEOUS CHANGES**
Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.**Unfunded Mandates:** Undetermined

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1980 subpart E; 7 CFR 4279 subpart A; 7 CFR 4279 subpart B; 7 CFR 4287 subpart B

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

Government Levels Affected:
Undetermined

Agency Contact: Richard Bonnet
Phone: 202 720-1804

RIN: 0570-AA23

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS)
Completed Actions**357. INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM REWRITE**

Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1948 subpart C; 7 CFR 4274 subpart D

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	02/06/98	63 FR 6052

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: State, Local

Agency Contact: Wayne Stansbery
Phone: 202 720-6819

RIN: 0570-AA15
BILLING CODE 3410-07-F

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
Rural Utilities Service (RUS)
Proposed Rule Stage**358. RUS FIDELITY AND INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRIC AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS**

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 7 USC 901 et seq; 7 USC 1921 et seq

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1788; 7 CFR 1717

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is considering revising its regulations concerning the fidelity and insurance requirements for electric and telecommunications borrowers.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	04/28/93	58 FR 25786
ANPRM Comment Period End	06/28/93	
NPRM	09/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	10/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Director, Program Development & Reg Analysis, Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Room 4036 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522
Phone: 202 720-9550
Fax: 202 720-4120
RIN: 0572-AA86

359. LOAN FORECASTS AND MARKET ANALYSIS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing

Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 7 USC 901 to 950(b); PL 99-591

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1710 E

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is proposing to update its Power Requirements currently contained in subpart E of 7 CFR part 1710, Pre-loan Policies and Procedures for Insured and Guaranteed Electric Loans. The updates to subpart E are needed to reflect the addition to 7 CFR 1710 of subpart H, Loans for Demand Side Management, Energy Conservation Programs, and On-Grid and Off-Grid Renewable Energy Systems. Subpart H was required by the Rural Electrification Loan Restructuring Act of 1993. Other changes to subpart E are intended to clarify the existing language without changing its overall intent.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Director, Program Development & Reg Analysis, Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Room 4036 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522
Phone: 202 720-9550
Fax: 202 720-4120
RIN: 0572-AB05

360. TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM CONSTRUCTION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant. Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 7 USC 901 et seq; 7 USC 1921; PL 103-354

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1753

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) proposes to revise its regulations on telecommunications system construction policies and procedures. This revision includes empowering the telephone borrowers by reducing oversight by RUS with respect to preparation of plans and specifications, bid approvals and final document approvals. In addition to reducing the requirements for facilities construction, RUS will also make technical corrections and clarifications, and minor technical changes.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/00/98	
NPRM Comment Period End	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Director, Program Development & Reg. Analysis, Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service, Room 4036-SBldg. (STOP 1522), 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-1522
Phone: 202 720-9550
Fax: 202 720-4120
RIN: 0572-AB34

USDA—RUS

Proposed Rule Stage

361. SPECIAL EQUIPMENT CONTRACT (INCLUDING INSTALLATION)**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Legal Authority:** 7 USC 901 et seq, 1921 et seq, 6941 et seq**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1755.397**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: RUS is proposing to amend its regulation on RUS Telecommunications Standards and Specifications for Material, Equipment and Construction. This action codifies RUS Form 397, Special Equipment Contract (including installation).

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	02/20/98	63 FR 8582
NPRM Comment Period End	04/21/98	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None

Agency Contact: F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Director, Program Development & Reg. Analysis, Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service, STOP 1522, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Room 4036, Washington, DC 20250-1522
Phone: 202 720-0736
Fax: 202 720-4120

RIN: 0572-AB35**362. RUS APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND EXTENSIONS TO ELECTRIC PLANTS****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: PL 103-354; 7 USC 901 to 905b**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1717.603**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is amending its regulations so that electric power supply borrowers may proceed more expeditiously to construct additions and extensions to their electric utility plant using their own funds.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	08/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Businesses**Government Levels Affected:** None

Agency Contact: F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Director, Program Development & Reg. Analysis, Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Room 4036-SBldg., Washington, DC 20250-1522
Phone: 202 720-9550
Fax: 202 720-4120

RIN: 0572-AB38
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

Final Rule Stage

363. ELECTRIC SYSTEM PLANNING AND DESIGN—POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 7 USC 901 et seq; 7 USC 1921 et seq**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1724**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: This rule will codify and update Agency policies and procedures for the planning and design of electrical systems of RUS borrowers.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	08/04/97	62 FR 41883
NPRM Comment Period End	10/02/97	
Final Action	05/00/98	
Final Action Effective	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None

Agency Contact: F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Director, Program Development & Reg.

Analysis, Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service, 14th & Independence Avenue SW., Room 4036 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522
Phone: 202 720-9550
Fax: 202 720-4120

RIN: 0572-AA48**364. LONG-RANGE FINANCIAL FORECASTS OF ELECTRIC BORROWERS****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

Legal Authority: 7 USC 901 to 950(b); PL 99-591**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1710 G**Legal Deadline:** None

Abstract: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) proposes to amend its pre-loan regulations for electric loans to clarify and revise the requirement that borrowers submit to RUS a long-range financial forecast as part of an application for a loan, loan guarantee,

lien accommodation. This proposed rule is intended to strengthen credit practices and to assist borrowers in preparing, and RUS staff in reviewing loan applications.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/20/97	62 FR 27546
NPRM Comment Period End	07/21/97	
Final Action	05/00/98	
Final Action Effective	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None

Agency Contact: F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Director, Program Development & Reg. Analysis, Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Room 4036 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522
Phone: 202 720-9550
Fax: 202 720-4120

RIN: 0572-AA89

USDA—RUS

Final Rule Stage

365. ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**Priority:** Other Significant**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.**Legal Authority:** PL 104-127**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1794**Legal Deadline:** None**Abstract:** The revision of the existing procedures shall reduce regulatory

requirements on recipients of financial assistance for the planning and construction of rural electric power, telecommunications, and water and waste facilities while improving the integrity of RUS' environmental protection responsibilities.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	11/24/97	62 FR 62527
NPRM Comment Period End	01/23/98	
Final Action	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Director, Program Support & Reg. Analysis, Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Room 4036 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522

Phone: 202 720-9550

Fax: 202 720-4120

RIN: 0572-AB33**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)****Long-Term Actions****Rural Utilities Service (RUS)****366. LOAN SECURITY DOCUMENTS—TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1744**Timetable:** Next Action Undetermined**Small Entities Affected:** None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** F. Lamont Heppe, Jr. Phone: 202 720-9550 Fax: 202 720-4120**RIN:** 0572-AA30**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** F. Lamont Heppe, Jr. Phone: 202 720-9550 Fax: 202 720-4120**RIN:** 0572-AA65

duplication, or streamline requirements.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1717, subparts A to F; 7 CFR 1717, subparts J to K**Timetable:** Next Action Undetermined**Small Entities Affected:** None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** F. Lamont Heppe, Jr. Phone: 202 720-9550 Fax: 202 720-4120**RIN:** 0572-AA71**367. LOAN ACCOUNT COMPUTATIONS, POLICIES, AND PROCEDURES****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1785; 7 CFR 1786 A**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/07/93	58 FR 18043
NPRM Comment Period End	05/07/93	
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**368. ELECTRIC STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1728**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** F. Lamont Heppe, Jr. Phone: 202 720-9550 Fax: 202 720-4120**RIN:** 0572-AA67**369. POST-LOAN POLICIES AND PROCEDURES COMMON TO INSURED AND GUARANTEED ELECTRIC LOANS****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or**370. CIVIL RIGHTS POLICIES APPLICABLE TO RUS BORROWERS****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1790**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	
NPRM Comment Period End	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** F. Lamont Heppe Phone: 202 720-9550 Fax: 202 720-4120**RIN:** 0572-AA75

USDA—RUS

Long-Term Actions

371. LOAN DOCUMENTS—BANK PROGRAM**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1620**Timetable:** Next Action Undetermined**Small Entities Affected:** None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** F. Lamont Heppe, Jr.
Phone: 202 720-9550
Fax: 202 720-4120**RIN:** 0572-AA76**372. DEPRECIATION RATES AND PROCEDURES****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1767 C**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** F. Lamont Heppe, Jr.
Phone: 202 720-9550
Fax: 202 720-4120**RIN:** 0572-AA80**373. PRESERVATION OF RECORDS ACCOUNTING REQUIREMENTS FOR RUS ELECTRIC BORROWERS****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant.
Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1767 D**Timetable:** Next Action Undetermined**Small Entities Affected:** None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** F. Lamont Heppe, Jr.
Phone: 202 720-9550
Fax: 202 720-4120**RIN:** 0572-AA92**374. USE OF GENERAL FUNDS INVESTMENTS, LOAN GUARANTEES, AND RETIREMENT OF CAPITAL CREDITS BY ELECTRIC BORROWERS****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1717 O**Timetable:** Next Action Undetermined**Small Entities Affected:** None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** F. Lamont Heppe, Jr.
Phone: 202 720-9550
Fax: 202 720-4120**RIN:** 0572-AB01**375. RUS APPROVAL OF SALE OF CAPITAL ASSETS BY ELECTRIC BORROWERS****Priority:** Other Significant**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1717 P**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	
NPRM Comment Period End	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** F. Lamont Heppe, Jr.
Phone: 202 720-9550
Fax: 202 720-4120**RIN:** 0572-AB02**376. COMMUNITY FACILITY LOANS—TIMBER-DEPENDENT COMMUNITIES****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant.
Major status under 5 USC 801 is undetermined.**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1942 subpart A**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Governmental Jurisdictions**Government Levels Affected:** Local**Agency Contact:** F. Lamont Heppe, Jr.
Phone: 202 720-9550
Fax: 202 720-4120**RIN:** 0572-AB11**377. LIQUIDATION OF LOANS AND ACQUISITION, MANAGEMENT, AND DISPOSAL OF SECURITY PROPERTY****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1696; 7 CFR 1697; 7 CFR 1951 subpart E; 7 CFR 1955 subpart A; 7 CFR 1955 subpart B; 7 CFR 1955 subpart C; 7 CFR 2.23; 7 CFR 2.70**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined**Government Levels Affected:** None**Agency Contact:** F. Lamont Heppe, Jr.
Phone: 202 720-9550
Fax: 202 720-4120**RIN:** 0572-AB13**378. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT GRANTS****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1775 subpt B**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: Governmental Jurisdictions, Organizations**Government Levels Affected:** Local**Agency Contact:** F. Lamont Heppe, Jr.
Phone: 202 720-9550
Fax: 202 720-4120**RIN:** 0572-AB14**379. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING GRANTS****Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant**CFR Citation:** 7 CFR 1775 subpt A**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	

USDA—RUS

Long-Term Actions

Small Entities Affected: Governmental Jurisdictions, Organizations

Government Levels Affected: Local

Agency Contact: F. Lamont Heppe, Jr.
Phone: 202 720-9550
Fax: 202 720-4120

RIN: 0572-AB15

380. WATER AND WASTE LOAN AND GRANT SERVICING

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1782

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	
NPRM Comment Period End	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: F. Lamont Heppe, Jr.
Phone: 202 720-9550
Fax: 202 720-4120

RIN: 0572-AB23

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Completed Actions

Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

381. ELECTRIC SYSTEMS OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Reinventing Government: This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1730

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	01/23/98	63 FR 3449
Final Action Effective	02/23/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: F. Lamont Heppe, Jr.
Phone: 202 720-9550
Fax: 202 720-4120

RIN: 0572-AA74

382. GENERAL INFORMATION; ORGANIZATION & FUNCTIONS AND LOAN MAKING AUTHORITY

Priority: Info./Admin./Other

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1700

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	04/02/98	63 FR 16085
Final Action Effective	04/02/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: F. Lamont Heppe, Jr.
Phone: 202 205-3660
Fax: 202 720-4120

RIN: 0572-AB37

BILLING CODE 3410-15-F

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Prerule Stage

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

383. • SURFACE MINING SPECIFICATIONS

Priority: Substantive, Nonsignificant

Legal Authority: 30 USC 1236

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 652

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is issuing a proposed rule for the specifications for soil handling in relation to mining activities on prime farmland, as

provided for in the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). SMCRA requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish specifications for the removal, storage, replacement and reconstruction of prime farmland soils.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Peggy Willis, Regulatory Liaison, Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, P. O. Box 2890, Cotton Annex Mezz 1, Washington, DC 20013

Phone: 202 720-0450

Fax: 202 690-3144

Email: peggy.willis@usda.gov

RIN: 0578-AA25

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Proposed Rule Stage

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

384. CONSERVATION FARM OPTION (CFO)

Priority: Other Significant

Legal Authority: PL 104-127

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 1468

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: A conservation farm option pilot program is established for

producers of wheat, feed grains, cotton, and rice. Owners or operators with farms that have a production flexibility contract are eligible for participation. Under the pilot program producers may

USDA—NRCS

Proposed Rule Stage

receive one consolidated USDA program payment in lieu of a list of specified payments. The producer must implement a conservation plan that addresses soil, water, and related resources, water quality, wetlands, and wildlife habitat. Participation is voluntary and based upon a 10-year contract between the Secretary and the producer. Funding varies by year

through 2002 with a total of \$197.5 million, coming from CCC, dedicated to this option.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	08/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Peggy Willis, Regulatory Liaison, Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, PO Box 2890, Cotton Annex Mezz 1, Washington, DC 20013

Phone: 202 720-0450

Fax: 202 690-3174

Email: peggy.willis@usda.gov

RIN: 0578-AA20

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Final Rule Stage

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

385. HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND AND WETLAND CONSERVATION

Priority: Other Significant

Legal Authority: 16 USC 3801 et seq

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 12

Legal Deadline: NPRM, Statutory, July 3, 1996.

Abstract: Soil erosion and its results, including damage to water quality and air quality, loss of productive capacity of the land, and offsite damages, is caused in part by inadequate or inappropriate systems. The 1985 Food Security Act required producers who farm highly erodible land to do so in accordance with an acceptable conservation system in order to remain eligible for most USDA program benefits. This act gave producers a major incentive to install conservation practices on the country's most fragile lands. The 1996 Farm Bill refines these requirements.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	09/06/96	61 FR 47019
Final Action	09/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: State, Local, Tribal, Federal

Agency Contact: Peggy Willis, Regulatory Liaison, Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, P.O. Box 2890, Cotton Annex Mezz 1, Washington, DC 20013
Phone: 202 720-0450

Fax: 202 690-3174

Email: peggy.willis@usda.gov

RIN: 0578-AA17

386. 7 CFR PART 610 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Priority: Other Significant

Unfunded Mandates: This action may affect State, local or tribal governments.

Legal Authority: PL 104-129

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 610

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: Section 342 subtitle E of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (FAIRA) expands the membership and roles of State Technical Committees set forth in section 1261 of subtitle G of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended. Under these guidelines, the Secretary is required to establish a technical committee in each State to assist in making technical considerations relating to the implementation of conservation provisions. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) uses these State Technical Committees in an advisory capacity. The rule will set forth the policies and procedures for the use of State Technical Committees by the United States Department of Agriculture, membership criteria, and the responsibilities assigned to these committees.

The NRCS has delivered the majority of the technical assistance provided to private landowners through the

authorities provided in 7 CFR part 610.2. Section 610.2 has not yet been revised to provide for the responsibilities assigned to the NRCS beyond that of soil conservation. To more accurately reflect the broader mission of NRCS, particularly as it relates to technical assistance provided to private grazing land, section 610.2 is being amended to acknowledge that one of NRCS's missions is to improve the quality of all agricultural lands, including grazing land, pastureland, rangeland, forestland, and cropland so that the long-term sustainability of the resource base is achieved.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/04/97	
NPRM Comment Period End	01/23/98	
Final Action	06/00/98	

Small Entities Affected: Undetermined

Government Levels Affected: None

Additional Information: 0578-AA23 has been withdrawn and incorporated into this regulation.

Agency Contact: Peggy Willis, Regulatory Liaison, Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, PO Box 2890, Cotton Annex Mezz 1, Washington, DC 20013

Phone: 202 690-4860

Fax: 202 690-3174

Email: peggy.willis@usda.gov

RIN: 0578-AA22

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Long-Term Actions

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

387. • WATER BANK

Priority: Routine and Frequent

Legal Authority: 16 USC 1301

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 633

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 authorized the establishment of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and transferred responsibility for the Water Bank Program (WBP)

from the Agricultural Stabilization (ASCS) and Conservation Service to the NRCS, formerly the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). This final rule provides the process by which the WBP will be administered within the NRCS.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Rule	09/16/97	62 FR 48471
Final Rule Effective	09/16/97	
Interim Final Rule	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Peggy Willis, Regulatory Liaison, Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, P. O. Box 2890 Cotton Annex, Mezz 1, Washington, DC 20013

Phone: 202 720-0450

Fax: 202 720-3174

Email: peggy.willis@usda.gov

RIN: 0578-AA24

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Completed Actions

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

388. WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM (WHIP)

Priority: Other Significant

Unfunded Mandates: This action may affect State, local or tribal governments.

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 636

Completed:

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	09/19/97	62 FR 49357
Final Action Effective	09/19/97	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: None

Agency Contact: Peggy Willis

Phone: 202 720-0405

Fax: 202 690-3174

RIN: 0578-AA21

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Long-Term Actions

Office of Operations (OO)

389. NEW RESTRICTIONS ON LOBBYING

Priority: Routine and Frequent

CFR Citation: 7 CFR 3018

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	02/26/90	55 FR 6736
Final Action	00/00/00	

Small Entities Affected: None

Government Levels Affected: State, Local

Agency Contact: Joseph J. Daragan

Phone: 202 720-5729

Fax: 202 720-8972

RIN: 0599-AA03

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